

FFA

28th

National Convention



October 10-13, 1955

MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM • KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA

National Officers, 1954-55

PRESIDENT.....	WILLIAM D. GUNTER, JR. Live Oak, Florida
VICE PRESIDENT.....	JAY WRIGHT Alamo, Nevada
VICE PRESIDENT.....	ROBERT H. FUTRELLE Mt. Olive, North Carolina
VICE PRESIDENT.....	LOWELL GISSELBECK Watertown, South Dakota
VICE PRESIDENT.....	CHARLES W. ANKEN Holland Patent, New York
STUDENT SECRETARY.....	PHILIP BROUILLETTE Richford, Vermont
ADVISOR.....	W. T. SPANTON Washington, D. C.
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY.....	A. W. TENNEY Washington, D. C.
TREASURER.....	D. J. HOWARD Richmond, Virginia

National FFA Board of Directors, 1954-55

W. T. SPANTON, Office of Education, Washington, D. C.
H. N. HUNSICKER, Office of Education, Washington, D. C.
E. J. JOHNSON, Office of Education, Washington, D. C.
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JOHN W. BUNTEN, State Supervisor Agricultural Education, Carson City, Nevada
H. M. McDONALD, State Supervisor Agricultural Education, Baltimore, Mary- land
WARREN G. WEILER, State Supervisor Agricultural Education, Columbus, Ohio
H. E. WOOD, State Supervisor Agricultural Education, Tallahassee, Florida

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TWENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL
C O N V E N T I O N

OF THE

*Future Farmers of
America*



Held at

MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

October 10-13, 1955

*Prepared and Published by the Future Farmers of America in cooperation with
the Office of Education, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare*

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INTRODUCTION

The Future Farmers of America is the national organization of boys studying vocational agriculture in public secondary schools under the provisions of the National Vocational Education Acts. Launched at Kansas City in November 1928, the organization has continued to develop rapidly. On June 30, 1955, the active membership totaled 383,219 in 8,868 chapters of 48 States, Hawaii and Puerto Rico.

The primary aim of the Future Farmers of America organization is the development of agricultural leadership, cooperation, citizenship and patriotism. Other purposes include: strengthening the confidence of farm boys and young men in themselves and their work; more intelligent choice of farming occupations; creating and nurturing a love of country life; improving the rural home and its surroundings; encouraging cooperative effort; encouraging thrift; improving scholarship; providing organized recreational activities for rural people; and supplementing, by means of boy-initiated and boy-directed activities, the systematic instruction offered to prospective young farmers regularly enrolled in day-school vocational agriculture courses.

The Future Farmers of America organization of voluntary membership has taken its place with other agencies interested in the upbuilding of agriculture and the improvement of country life. National headquarters of the Future Farmers of America is located in the Office of Education, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Washington 25, D. C. National conventions are held annually at Kansas City, Missouri.

The Twenty-Eighth National Convention of the Future Farmers of America was held at the Municipal Auditorium in Kansas City, Missouri, October 10 through 13, 1955. Delegates were present from 50 chartered associations. Approximately 12,000 individuals attended the convention.

These proceedings constitute a yearbook on organization activities. The complete minutes of the Convention sessions are included, along with certain other important material which is supplementary to or explanatory to the convention activities. Press releases, as well as certain newspaper accounts, were used in compiling parts of this publication. Thanks are due to Mr. John J. Farrar, Director of Public Relations and Information for the FFA, Miss Veronica Horan, Miss Virginia Nicholson and Mrs. Irene W. Shafer for their assistance in the preparation of material for this publication.

A. W. TENNEY
National Executive Secretary

1955 OFFICIAL DELEGATES

Alabama.....	Neil Bain.....	Ellis Burgess
	Rt. 1, Carrollton	Rt. 1, Clanton
Arizona.....	Freddy North.....	Robert York
	Box 1346, Eloy	Rt. 1, Box 856, Glendale
Arkansas.....	Allen McKnight.....	Danny Bourland
	Parkin	Rt. 1, Manila
California.....	Joe Russ.....	Joe Faure
	Ocean House, Ferndale	Rt. 2, Box 878, Porterville
Colorado.....	Franklin Ratzloff.....	Dennis Repp
	McClave	Merino
Connecticut.....	Ralph Lanz.....	Samuel Berkowitz
	RFD 3, Rockville	Chestnut Hill
Delaware.....	Richard James.....	William Lord
	R.D., Laurel	R.D., Greenwood
Florida.....	William Aplin.....	Eugene A. Mixon
	Box 51, Lakewood	Rt. 2, E. Bradenton
Georgia.....	Terrell Benton.....	Larry Young
	Rt. 1, Jefferson	Chickamauga
Hawaii.....	Donald B. Cataluna.....	Yoshio Nishimori
	P.O. Box 505, Koloa, Kauai	P.O. Box 104, Paauhau
Idaho.....	Jerry Tlucek.....	Bill Carlson
	Rt. 6, Nampa	Box 46, Carey
Illinois.....	Larry Royer.....	Charles Wendt
	Assumption	R.R. 1, Champaign
Indiana.....	A. Wayne Drake.....	Charles Jackson
	R.R. 2, Bridgeport	R.R. 3, Columbus
Iowa.....	Stanley Hanna.....	Herbert O. Hoover
	Forest City	Spencer
Kansas.....	Larry Figgs.....	Waldo Anderson
	Rt. 1, Valley Falls	Traer
Kentucky.....	Sam Whitaker, Jr.....	James Howell
	Rt. 1, Stanford	Crystal
Louisiana.....	Donnie Ray Wilburn.....	Sam Friedman
	Rt. 2, Delhi	Natchez
Maine.....	Wayne R. Nichols.....	Carl D. Lovley
	RFD, Presque Isle	Rt. 1, Mapleton
Maryland.....	J. W. Runkles.....	Henry Comegys
	Monrovia	Centreville
Massachusetts.....	James A. Reardon.....	James F. Rutledge, Jr.
	RFD 1, Wilbraham Rd.	686 Lancaster Street
	Hampden	Leominster
Michigan.....	James Shepard.....	2092 Dietz Rd., Williamston
	Rt. 1, East Jordan	Thomas Beatty
Minnesota.....	Jack Morris.....	Sheldon Lukes
	Lafayette	Rt. 3, Austin
Mississippi.....	Fred Tyner.....	Denton O'Dell
	Rt. 1, Purvis	Rt. 5, Holly Springs
Missouri.....	Jerry Litton.....	Don Magruder
	Rt. 4, Chillicothe	Lentner
Montana.....	Rogerrie Knutson.....	Arden E. Olsen
	c/o Clyde Sullivan	Rt. 1, Kalispell
	Hoffman Rt., Livingston	

Nebraska.....	Don Herman.....	Pat Donlan Wilbur Eagle
Nevada.....	Bryan Hafen.....	Gary Hafen Mesquite Mesquite
New Hampshire.....	Sherman Carney.....	Marvin Colburn Colebrook Weare
New Jersey.....	Frank Gromlich.....	Paul Cooper Lafayette Sewell
New Mexico.....	Gerald Bonds.....	Teddy Wilcox Rt. 1, Aztec Star Rt. 1, Deming
New York.....	Gordon Sands, Jr.....	Henry J. Farner Westerloo Springville
North Carolina.....	Jimmy Hunt, Jr.....	Jerry Sutton Rt. 1, Lucama Rt. 1, Franklin
North Dakota.....	Donald McKenzie.....	Dennis Wold Pingree Maddock
Ohio.....	Larry Earhart.....	Neil Milner R.R. 3, Troy Leesburg
Oklahoma.....	Jim Hogan.....	Nathan Reese Box 151, Norman Mooreland
Oregon.....	Donn Johnson.....	Joe Colvin P.O. Box 161 Box 185, Enterprise Central Point
Pennsylvania.....	Jerry Fuhrman.....	Robert L. Welk R.D. 1, New Freedom Rt. 1, Strasburg
Puerto Rico.....	Onofre Tosado Ross.....	Luis Alberto Terres Pajuil Second Unit School Salto Arriba Second Unit Hatillo School, Utuado
Rhode Island.....	Joseph Santos.....	Wayne Cutting 67 Second Street Hamilton East Providence
South Carolina.....	Jackie Marsh.....	Ted Davenport Rt. 1, Hemingway Kinards
South Dakota.....	Merle Myers.....	Jerry Hanson R.R. 1, Box 110, Elkton R.R. 2, Webster
Tennessee.....	Emmett Barker.....	Lemmy Wilson Rt. 1, Humboldt Newport
Texas.....	David Risinger.....	Arville Newby Rt. 1, Ferris Springtown
Utah.....	Rowley Curtis.....	Burke Johnson Springville Aurora
Vermont.....	Gerald Depot.....	Daniel Robinson Waterville Sharon
Virginia.....	R. G. Akers, Jr.....	David Miller Rt. 2, Cambria Rt. 2, Bland
Washington.....	Conrad Hoskins.....	Howard Schultheis Dayton Colton
West Virginia.....	Bill Collins.....	Paul H. Homan 217 Willard Street Ridgeville Terra Alta
Wisconsin.....	Joe Conlin.....	Alan Albers Columbus Rt. 1, Plain
Wyoming.....	Milton Miller.....	Jim Lane Carpenter Gillette

NATIONAL FFA PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST

MAIN ARENA, MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM

MONDAY, OCTOBER 10—8:00 P. M.

CHAIRMAN

William D. Gunter, Jr., National FFA President

Opening Ceremony

Music—National FFA Band, Henry S. Brunner, Pennsylvania State University, conducting

Explanation of Contest

Drawing for Speaking Order

SPEAKERS

Liberato Viduya, Jr., Lanai, Hawaii

"Soil, The Stepping Stone to Freedom"

Clark Reber, Bunkerville, Nevada

"Farm Organizations: An Answer to Our Farm Problems"

Jerry Litton, Chillicothe, Missouri

"Farming—A Challenge and an Opportunity"

Lee Todd, Bells, Tennessee

"The Land is Our Trust"

Clarence Van Dyke, Unionville, Pennsylvania

"A Valley with a Vision"

Music—National FFA Chorus, James W. Hatch, Kinderhook, New York, conducting

Presentation of Awards

Closing Ceremony

JUDGES

Shelby M. Jackson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Department of Education, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Wib Justi, Youth Director, The National Grange, Washington, D. C.

R. H. Woods, President, Murray State College, Murray, Kentucky

TIMEKEEPERS

Harold E. Heldreth, Agricultural Representative, National Safety Council, Chicago, Illinois

Roy P. Stewart, Columnist, Daily Oklahoman, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

CONVENTION PROGRAM

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11

8:00 A.M. Registration, Grand Foyer, Municipal Auditorium

9:00 A.M. Opening Session, Main Arena, Municipal Auditorium

Opening Ceremony

Music—National FFA Band

Group Singing

Invocation—Merril Cartwright, National Vice President, 1949-50

Report on Delegate Credentials

Roll Call of States and Seating of Delegates

Address of Welcome—Honorable H. Roe Bartle, Mayor of Kansas City, Missouri

Minutes of Twenty-Seventh National Convention—Philip Brouillette, National Student Secretary

Appointment of Constitutional Committees

Addresses of Retiring Officers

Nomination of Honorary American Farmers—W. T. Spanton, Chief, Agricultural Education Branch, Office of Education, Washington, D. C.

Treasurer's Report—Dowell J. Howard, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Richmond, Virginia

Executive Secretary's Report—A. W. Tenney, Agricultural Education Branch, Office of Education, Washington, D. C.

Music—National FFA Band and Chorus

Address—Honorable Ezra Taft Benson, Secretary, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Closing Ceremony

2:00 P.M. Second Session, Main Arena, Municipal Auditorium

Opening Ceremony

Music—National FFA Chorus

Address—Honorable Harold E. Stassen, Special Assistant to the President, Washington, D. C.

Conferring of Honorary American Farmer Degrees

Music—National FFA Band

American Farmer Degree Ceremony

Presentation of Awards in National Chapter Program

Closing Ceremony

7:25 P.M. Third Session, Main Arena, Municipal Auditorium

Opening Ceremony

Music—National FFA Band and Chorus

Massing of State Flags—State Star Farmers

Presentation of Star American Farmer Awards

Recessional

Closing Ceremony

Special Entertainment—Courtesy, Firestone Tire and Rubber Company

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12

9:00 A.M. Fourth Session, Main Arena, Municipal Auditorium

Opening Ceremony

Music—Plant City, Florida, String Band

Unfinished Business

New Business

Greetings from Past National FFA Officers

An Interview with Participants in the International Youth Exchange—Max Berry, Joe Faure, Larry Royer, Frank Wilson, Derek Goodwin, Iolo Owen, Bruce Seaman, Vivian Walton

Addresses of Retiring Officers

Music—National FFA Band and Chorus

Address—Mr. Herschel Newsom, Master, The National Grange, Washington, D. C.

Patriotism and the FFA

Closing Ceremony

1:00 P.M. Tours to Points of Interest

- 2:00 P.M. Fifth Session, Main Arena, Municipal Auditorium
 Call to Order
 Appointment of Committees
 Recess for Committee Work
- 8:00 P.M. Sixth Session, Main Arena, Municipal Auditorium
 Opening Ceremony
 Music—National FFA Band and Chorus
 Calling to the Platform Representatives of Donors to the Future Farmers of America Foundation, Inc.
 Introduction of Platform Guests
 Greetings—Mr. A. F. Davis, Secretary, The James F. Lincoln Are Welding Foundation, Cleveland, Ohio
 Presentation of Future Farmers of America Foundation, Inc. Awards
 Farm Mechanics
 Farm Electrification
 Dairy Farming (Announced)
 Soil and Water Management
 Farm Safety
 Music—National FFA Band
 Closing Ceremony
 Special Entertainment — Eddie Fisher and Debbie Reynolds —
 Courtesy, Coca-Cola Company

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13

- 9:00 A.M. Seventh Session, Main Arena, Municipal Auditorium
 Opening Ceremony
 Music—National FFA Band and Chorus
 Addresses of Retiring Officers
 New Business
 Committee Reports
 Music—Piano Solo, Kirke Pratt, South Dakota
 Greetings—Mr. A. Z. Baker, President, Rotary International, Evanston, Illinois
 Closing Ceremony
- 1:30 P.M. Eighth Session, Main Arena, Municipal Auditorium
 Opening Ceremony
 Music—FFA Swing Band, District V, Minnesota
 Presentation of Budget for 1955-56
 Annual Dues for 1955-56
 Report of Nominating Committee
 Election of Officers
 Greetings from Incoming Officers
 Installation of New Officers
 Presentation of Past Officers' Pins and Certificates by New President
 Closing Ceremony by New Officers
- 2:30 P.M. Special Entertainment, Courtesy, Saddle and Sirloin Club (By
 to Invitation Only)
- 7:00 P.M.

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NATIONAL FFA BAND AND CHORUS

Minutes of the Convention

Monday, October 10, 1955

Evening Session

The Future Farmers of America twenty-eighth national convention convened in the Main Arena of the Municipal Auditorium, Kansas City, Missouri, at eight o'clock. National President William D. Gunter, Jr., of Live Oak, Florida, presiding. National Vice Presidents Jay Wright, Robert H. Futrelle, Lowell Gisselbeck, and Charles W. Anken were present, as well as Student Secretary Philip Brouillette, Advisor W. T. Spanton, Executive Secretary A. W. Tenney, and Treasurer Dowell J. Howard.

Following the opening ceremony the National FFA Band presented a concert.

An explanation of the National FFA Public Speaking Contest was given by President Gunter. The speakers then drew for speaking order. Following the speeches the National Chorus presented several selections while the judges conferred. Results of the Contest were announced and awards presented on behalf of the Future Farmers of America Foundation, Inc. by Vice President Lowell Gisselbeck.

The meeting adjourned with the closing ceremony.

Tuesday, October 11, 1955

Morning Session

The first session of the convention was called to order at nine o'clock with the opening ceremony, President Gunter presiding.

Following a concert by the national band, the invocation was pronounced by Merrill Cartwright, National Vice President in 1949-50.

The report of the Delegate Credentials was called for and Student Secretary Brouillette reported 100 official delegates present from 50 chartered associations. The roll call and seating of delegates followed.

The Honorable H. Roe Bartle, Mayor of Kansas City, Missouri, made the Address of Welcome to the Future Farmers of America.

The Minutes of the Twenty-Seventh National Convention were read by Student Secretary Brouillette, and approved unanimously in their entirety.



Candidates for the American Farmer Degree in line for the ceremony.

President Gunter announced the appointment of the Auditing, Program of Work and Nominating Committees.

North Atlantic Regional Vice President Charles W. Anken presented his report and moved its adoption; motion seconded by Tyner of Mississippi and carried.

Advisor Spanton presented the names of the following persons who were considered and recommended by the National Board of Directors and National Board of Student Officers to receive the Honorary American Farmer Degree:

Gerald F. Barton, Assistant Supervisor, Agricultural Education, State Department of Public Instruction, 542 State Office Building, Des Moines 19, Iowa
 George S. Bulkley, General Director, Dairy Extension, Carnation Company, Carnation Building, Los Angeles 36, California

A. B. Childers, Area Supervisor, Agricultural Education, 1920 South 26th Street, Waco, Texas

A. P. Davidson, Teacher Trainer, Agricultural Education, Kansas State College, Manhattan, Kansas

Percy Kirk, State Supervisor, Agricultural Education, State Department of Education, Cheyenne, Wyoming

Howard McClarren, Youth Education, American Institute of Cooperation, 744 Jackson Place, N. W., Washington, D. C.

Robert V. Mullen, Executive Secretary, Sears, Roebuck Foundation, 3333 Arthington Street, Chicago 7, Illinois
S. F. Peterson, President, National Vocational Agricultural Teachers' Association, Inc., Ayden, North Carolina
C. A. Reynolds, Director and Chairman of the Board, The H. D. Lee Company, Inc., Kansas City 10, Missouri
W. A. Ruhmann, Farm Editor of WBAP, Fort Worth, Texas
Reuben L. Smith, Radio Director, Tractor Group, Allis-Chalmers Manufacturing Company, 1126 South 70th Street, Milwaukee 1, Wisconsin
Roy P. Stewart, Columnist, Daily Oklahoman, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
A. L. Teachey, State Supervisor, Agricultural Education, State Department of Public Instruction, Raleigh, North Carolina
Harold E. Urton, State Supervisor, Agricultural Education, State Department of Public Instruction, Pierre, South Dakota
Cola D. Watson, State Supervisor, Agricultural Education, State Department of Education, State Office Building, Montpelier, Vermont
William D. Gunter, Box 87, Live Oak, Florida
George Brouillette, Richford, Vermont
George H. Futrelle, Route 3, Box 238, Mt. Olive, North Carolina
Ezra Gisselbeck, Watertown, South Dakota
Charles F. Anken, Holland Patent, New York
Dan J. Arnold, RFD 1, Plainwell, Michigan
Stanley Loosli, Route 2, Ashton, Idaho
Donald Moore, Granville, Tennessee
Ross Edward Smith, Monkton, Maryland
Winfield Leonard Norton, 12 Fair Street, Petaluma, California
Ellis F. Clark, Box 308, Woodbury, Connecticut
J. C. Waldron, Box 202, Drifton, Florida
Clarence M. Hatland, Walnut, Illinois
C. J. Kuster, Normal, Illinois
L. F. Lentz, Park Road, R. R. 1, Belleville, Illinois
Glenn T. Moore, Oneida, Illinois
Melvin J. Nicol, Maroa, Illinois
Floyd A. Blauer, Stockton, Kansas
R. M. Karns, Route 3, Newton, Kansas
H. Palmer Hopkins, New Park, Pennsylvania (Pylesville, Maryland)
T. B. Poole, Deckerville, Michigan
Joseph V. Raine, 615 N.W. Second Street, Little Falls, Minnesota
Thomas W. Raine, Route 5, Owatonna, Minnesota
Jess Kovanda, Ord, Nebraska
O. J. Gaylord, Bath, North Carolina
H. G. Johnston, Pittsboro, North Carolina
John Borton, Upper Sandusky, Ohio
John Kusel, Fort Cobb, Oklahoma
William McKinney, 1024 N. 14, Salem, Oregon
Walter L. Hess, 235 Center Street, Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania
Juan Ellis, P. O. Box 66, Orocovis, Puerto Rico
Harold White, 704 East Third Avenue, Milbank, South Dakota
Edward Kantola, Walla Walla, Washington
E. A. Hutchinson, Clintonville, Wisconsin

It was moved by Fuhrman of Pennsylvania to confer the Honorary American Farmer Degree upon the individuals whose names were read; motion seconded by Earhart of Ohio and carried.



Representatives of business, industry and organizations who received the Honorary American Farmer Degree.

Dr. Dowell J. Howard, National FFA Treasurer, presented his report. Gamage of Virginia moved to accept the report; motion seconded by Marsh of South Carolina and carried.

Dr. A. W. Tenney, National FFA Executive Secretary, presented his report. Royer of Illinois moved to accept the report; motion seconded by Young of Georgia and carried.

Musical selections were presented by the National Band and Chorus.

President Gunter introduced the Honorable Ezra Taft Benson, Secretary of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, after which Secretary Benson gave an address.

The meeting adjourned with the closing ceremony.

Tuesday, October 11, 1955

Afternoon Session

The second session of the convention was called to order at two o'clock with the opening ceremony, President Gunter presiding.

Several musical selections were rendered by the national chorus.

President Gunter introduced the Honorable Harold E. Stassen, Special Assistant to the President, after which Mr. Stassen made an address.

Joe Faure of California, Chairman of the Resolutions Committee, presented a special resolution concerning world peace and moved its adoption; motion seconded by Berkowitz of Connecticut and carried. This special resolution was then presented to Mr. Stassen requesting that he call this to the attention of President Eisenhower.



Special Resolution

Be it resolved by the 28th National Convention of Future Farmers of America, that we the Future Farmers of America, believe in the reduction and limitation of armament in the United States and among the nations of the world consistent with the best interests of our own National Defense. We pledge ourselves to do everything in our power to bring about a better understanding between the civilized nations of the world to the end that we may look forward to a life of peace, happiness and prosperity without the constant threat that war clouds may again darken the face of the world.

(Resolution presented for adoption by the Future Farmers of America at its 28th National Convention, Kansas City, Missouri, October, 1955.)



The Honorary American Farmer Degree was conferred upon a number of men by President Gunter.

Following music by the national band, the American Farmer Degree was conferred upon the following candidates by the national officers:

Alabama

Ralph Edward Barrett, Route 1,
Dora
Morris Braly, Anderson
Kenneth J. Copeland, Route 5, Boaz
Virgil Wayland Darby, Box 279,
Route 4, Florence
Don Howard Dean, Route 1, Hart-
ford
Robert Roshell Hollingsworth,
Greensboro
Arthur Clyde King, Linwood
Billy Frank Price, Elamville
Douglas Rigney, Copeland
Bruce Roberts, Route 4, Jasper
Roy Wayne Snead, Route 3, Altoona
Donald Sublett, Route 1, Huntsville

Arizona

Gordon Hall, Route 2, Chandler
E. Garth Lamb, Route 1, Box 63,
Gilbert

Arkansas

C. W. Futrell Butler, Route 2, Rector
David Alan Carr, Jasper Star Route,
Harrison
Edwin C. McDonald, Harrison
Robert A. McKnight, Parkin
Donnie Mitchell, Route 2, Smithville
Douglas Moore, Route 2, Trumann
Jerrell Ralph Moss, Jr., Route 5,
Harrison
Joseph A. Musick, Jr., Joiner
Hubert Norris, P. O. Box 146,
Swifton
Bobby W. Smith, Route 4, Rector
William Daniel Thomas, Jr., Route
18, Box 181, Little Rock
John Watkins, Vandevort
Paul David Wilson, RFD 3, Box 38A,
Marianna

California

Peter L. Ahart, Route 2, Box 647,
Oroville
Marvin Charles Angell, Route 1,
Box 112, Hemet
John Barcellos, Route 1, Box 193,
Dos Palos
Pruett Burnam, Route 3, Box 677,
Turlock
Jackie Davis, Route 1, Box 1105,
Delano

William Joseph Enos, Route 1, Box
305, Winton
Douglas Maddox, Route 1, Box 397,
Laton
Peter Mazzucchi, 3367 Petaluma
Hill Road, Santa Rosa
Charles Gerald Myers, P.O. Box 192,
Williams
Charles Ernest Preuss, Clovis
Arnold Pierre Recalde, Box 27,
Paicines
Carl Everett Yergenson, Route 1,
Box 79, Corning

Colorado

Albert Wayne Bernhardt, Route 1,
Box 22½, Wiggins
Bob Dorsey, Route 2, Box 7, Eaton
Jack Duane Good, Lamar

Connecticut

Lewis Arthur Tanner, New Preston

Delaware

Richard Granville James, RD 1, Box
100B, Laurel

Florida

Herbert Boatright, Route 5, Box
254, Live Oak
Shepard Mack Eubanks, Route 1,
Greensboro
Harry L. Fuqua, Altha
Peter R. Gindl, Route 2, Box 450,
Cantonement
Thomas P. Hurst, Route 5, Box 340,
Live Oak
Dewayne Lyons, Route 5, Live Oak
Eugene Abe Mixon, Route 2,
Bradenton
William Timmons, Route 2, Quincy

Georgia

Terrell Benton, Jr., Route 1, Jeffer-
son
James Austin Brown, Chester
Harry Chambless, Dawson
Melvin Joe Duvall, Greensboro
Jackie Henderson Dyer, Route 2,
Blairsville
Marlow Hand, Jr., Route 3, Hazle-
hurst
Hugh Hardy, Route 3, Sycamore
Dan Haygood, Jr., Culloden
Huey Critz Howard, Route 1, Box
115, Donalsonville

Jack Presley, RFD 2, Meigs
 Earnest Terrell Saunders, Route 4,
 Moultrie
 Ralph Tanner, Route 1, Axson
 Wilford Tyler, Donalsonville
 Robert L. Webster, Gough
 William Parker Wilson, Luella
 J. M. Wise, Route 2, Plains
 Bobby Eugene Yown, Route 1, Sycamore

Idaho

S. Lynn Loosli, Route 2, Ashton
 Eugene R. Vertner, Route 3, Weiser
 Donald Roy Wamstad, Route 1,
 Parma

Illinois

DeWayne C. Adams, Kings
 Donald Austin, Box 441, Keenes
 Robert E. Baumgart, Mt. Carmel
 Don Colwell, Franklin Grove
 Roger Leo Dykeman, Williamsfield
 Larry A. Goodin, Vermont
 Dale Russel Greer, Swanwick
 Donald James Herring, RR 1, Piasa
 Robert A. Pearson, Ambia
 Richard L. Peile, Pittsfield
 Larry Royer, Assumption
 Eugene William Schick, RR 3, Box
 43, Elgin
 Donald T. Sheckler, RFD 1, Fairview
 Ralph D. Siebert, Route 1, Belleville
 Minor Andrew Van Brooker, Star
 Route, Birmingham
 Robert Varner, Catlin
 Charles F. Wendt, RR 1, Champaign
 Arlin Harold Woker, Greenville

Indiana

James Allen Bates, South Elm Road,
 Bourbon
 Philip G. Compton, RR 1, Jonesboro
 Marvin Lee Culy, RR 2, Hagerstown
 Robert Daniels, Box 451, Pennville
 William H. Daniels, Box 451, Pennville
 Clarence Frazier, RR 4, Union City
 Stanley Dale Hayhurst, RR 3, Box
 428, Terre Haute
 Burl L. Nifong, RR 4, Plymouth
 Herbert L. Schocke, RR 5, Frankfort

Iowa

Frederick Perry Diehl, Route 4,
 Osceola
 Leland Duane Dolecheck, Mount Ayr
 Clair R. Ellis, Ryan
 Howard H. Gilman, Stuart
 Richard R. Goeman, RFD 1, Belmond
 Stanley M. Hanna, Forest City
 Jimmy Duane Litwiller, Wellman
 Verduis L. Reimer, Guttenberg

William L. Roghair, Hartley
 Jerry R. Stumbo, Ogden

Kansas

Waldo W. Anderson, Traer
 Norwood Blanke, Bremen
 Ronald Daren Cheyney, Route 1,
 Chanute
 Francis A. Grillot, Jr., RR 3, Parsons
 Leonard Hawk, Effingham
 Clifford A. Mayo, RR 1, Garden City
 Roy R. Rau, Wakefield

Kentucky

Eugene Armstrong, Route 1, Lynn
 Grove
 David Baker, Route 3, Philpot
 Ronnie Botkin, Lexington
 Rudolph Brumfield, Union Star
 William K. Bullen, Wildie
 John Thomas Houston, Brodhead
 Billy Karsner, Monterey
 Charles E. Kneisler, Brooks
 Bobby Lawson, Lexington
 Marion Kenneth Reed, Versailles
 John Allen Weaver, Cox's Creek
 J. T. Workman, Jr., Route 4, Clinton

Louisiana

Karie Winstead Blades, Star Route,
 Kentwood
 James F. Davis, P.O. Box 45,
 Bethany
 Albert Lee Doughty, Rhinehart
 Jared Y. Evans, Route 1, Box 9,
 Ringgold
 Roy Daniel Jordon, Dodson
 J. B. LeDoux, Jr., Route 2, Sulphur
 Herbert Moore, Route 2, Box 172,
 Delhi
 Billy Rogers, Box 778, Mansfield
 Claude E. Smith, Mt. Hermon
 Donnie Ray Wilburn, Delhi

Maine

Carl Delance Lovley, Route 1,
 Mapleton

Maryland

J. Wilfred Runkles, Monrovia
 Ross Edward Smith, Jr., Monkton

Michigan

Richard K. Arnold, RFD 1, Plainwell
 Larry L. Behrenwald, Route 1,
 Lakeview
 Wayne Elwood Blosssey, Route 2,
 Williamston
 Clare L. Carnahan, RFD 4, Adrian
 Roger Louis Cootware, Star Route
 1, Box 140, Iron Mountain

Ronald Lee Roy Hisler, Route 4,
Charlotte
William Carl Kiessling, RFD 1,
Marshall
Leo Clair Murphy, RFD 2, 14903
West Howe Road, Portland
Wesley Prine, RR 1, Springport
Paul Wm. Thompson, RR 1, Allegan
George Owen Winegar, RR 4,
Howell

Minnesota

Duane "Dewey" Baringer, RR 4, Red
Wing
Robert E. Evenson, Minnesota Lake
Marvin LaVerne Grimm, Odessa
Paul Lightly, Oakland
John Edward Morris, Kilkenny
John S. Schafer, Lake City
Merle Schuneman, Carlos
Charles D. Sonnek, Waldorf
Luverne Robert Tolzmann, Minne-
sota Lake
Chuck Zimmerman, Route 1, North-
field

Mississippi

Guy Wayne Davis, Route 3, Lumber-
ton
Carl Conner Harrison, Star Route,
Springville
Odie Wendell Jackson, Route 1,
Sturgis
Dale Berlon Jefcoat, Route 1, Soso
Cecil Johnson, Route 1, Baxterville
Julian Scott Kirk, Duck Hill
Harold Curtis Middleton, Gore
Springs
Jerry Mitchell, Route 2, Box 24,
Carriere
Ted Sanderson, Brandon

Missouri

James B. Boillot, Stephens
Laverne Brown, Skidmore
Bobbie Grainger, Chilhowee
Kenneth W. Greninger, Route 1,
Diamond
Carl R. Hayward, RR 1, Salisbury
Gerold Claire Hill, Adrian
Jimmie Lee Hoefler, Poynor
Paul Kennemer, Route 9, Box 686,
Springfield
Lora Franklin McKay, Unionville
Clarence Neuenschwander, RR 2,
Deepwater
Doran Max Roweton, Bolivar
Gene Earl Wills, Millersville

Montana

Donald Blasdel, Route 2, Kalispell
Arden E. Olsen, Route 1, Kalispell

Nebraska

Donald Dunn, Harrison
John D. Gaswick, Hay Springs
Bobby Dale Girmus, Sutton
Orval Haumont, Broken Bow
Dale M. Hebbert, Gordon
Gale J. Horn, Eddyville

Nevada

Gary B. Hafen, Box 104, Mesquite

New Hampshire

Marvin Wendell Colburn, North
Weare

New Jersey

Paul Stanley Cooper, Fishpond Rd.,
Sewell
Frank Demarest, Box 53, Lafayette

New Mexico

Clinton A. Burnham, P.O. Box 625,
Farmington
Wesley Statton, P.O. Box 425, Las
Cruces

New York

Duane Dedrick, Delevan
Edmund L. Holmes, RD 1, New
Woodstock
Harold C. Miller, Ancramdale
George H. Mills, RD 1, Port Byron
Robert H. Sanders, Union Springs
William Schuldt, Nineveh
Jeremy Thomas, RD, Stanley

North Carolina

Donald Lee Brown, Route 1, Reids-
ville
George Edmund Bullard, Jr., Route
1, Wade
Howell Oscar Gentry, Jr., Route 1,
Summerfield
Devon Carrol Herring, Route 2,
Mount Olive
J. C. Johnson, Jr., Route 1, Coats
Joe Frank Key, State Road
James L. Knowles, Jr., Route 1,
Jamesville
Sherlon C. Layton, Route 1, Box 294,
Edenton
John Malloy McLean, Route 1,
Wagram
Richard Fletcher Pearson, Clinton
Rex Price, Route 1, Mount Olive
William McSwain Price, Route 1,
Waxhaw
Bobby Wray Shive, Route 3, Salis-
bury
Norman Mack Shoaf, Route 5, Win-
ston-Salem

Gerald Dwight Simmons, Box 140, Albertson
 David Ashley Smith, Route 1, Box 191, Wade
 Charles Jerry Sutton, Route 2, Franklin
 George P. Upton, Jr., Randleman
 Billy Brooks Whitaker, Pilot Mountain
 Wadeford Williams, Route 1, Coats
 William Braxton Williams, Route 1, Wade
 James David Winstead, Route 4, Rocky Mount
 Billy Joe Yates, Route 2, Denton

North Dakota

Michael J. Horner, Linton
 Donald F. Schwartz, RFD 2, Jamestown

Ohio

Ronald E. Heldman, RFD 1, Bluffton
 Louis Huffman, Worthington
 Ronald Edward Huffman, Upper Sandusky
 Dick Leuthold, RFD 4, Bucyrus
 Gene E. Line, RR 5, Findlay
 Don F. Loudenslager, RR 1, Morral
 Dale E. Ring, RD 5, Wooster
 Donald James Schalmo, RD 3, Massillon
 Merlin A. Sheets, Route 2, Delaware
 Merrill A. Sheets, Route 2, Delaware
 F. Dow Wagner, Route 1, Spencer-ville
 George Dale Wenig, RR 1, New Bloomington

Oklahoma

Ellis E. Allinson, Route 3, Stillwater
 Clarence Bay, Route 2, Shattuck
 Max Merle Berry, RR 2, Cherokee
 Edsel Bixler, RR 1, Waynoka
 Kenneth Boggs, Route 1, Cordell
 Donald Flasch, Route 3, Guthrie
 Robert Gentry, Route 1, Shawnee
 Sidney Harmon, Route 4, Shawnee
 Darrell Morris, Gray
 Audie Neal Rackley, Mountain View
 Barton Ridling, Route 1, Rocky
 Don L. Smith, Route 2, Erick
 Franklin Stehno, Billings
 J. D. Steidley, Route 2, Claremore
 Dwight Eugene Surface, RR 4, Alva
 Bob Ed Wilson, Route 2, Erick

Oregon

Daniel B. Dunham, P.O. Box 2, Lakeview
 Donald Francis Hillecke, Hillsboro
 Konnie Wheeler, Scappoose

Charles Clayton Wood, Route 2, Box 287, Albany

Pennsylvania

Daniel Z. Clark, RD 1, Carlton
 Donald Dillon, RD 1, Orrtanna
 Thomas Leroy Dunlap, RD 1, Jersey Shore
 William E. Ebaugh, Whitehall
 J. Mowery Frey, Jr., RD 7, Lancaster
 G. Calvin Gerhard, Box 88, New Derry
 Ben Hamilton, RD 3, Washington
 Dean A. Robbins, RD 2, Millville
 Clayton Eli Shriver, RD 2, Martinsburg
 Russell Michael Wertz, RD 1, Aspers
 Charles E. Woods, RD 6, Mercer

Puerto Rico

Francisco Sepulveda Medina, Laura Station, Yabucoa
 Onofre Tosado Ross, P.O. Box 152, Arecibo

South Carolina

Harold Lide Camlin, Route 2, Florence
 James A. Eidson, Jr., Johnston
 Thomas Franklin Gaston, Route 5, Greer
 James L. Hatchett, Route 1, Roebuck
 Benjamin Thomas McDaniel, Star Route, Pickens
 Gerald Wayne Truesdell, P.O. Box 112, Westville
 James N. Watkins, Jr., Route 3, Saluda

South Dakota

Jim Davis, Ipswich
 Jerry Kirkeby, Naples
 Loren W. Reetz, Gregory

Tennessee

Thomas Anderson, RFD 3, Dyersburg
 Albert Allen Bennett, Route 1, Elmwood
 Ned L. Bradley, Route 3, Lebanon
 Virgil David Calfee, Route 5, Box 413, Cleveland
 Huey P. Claybrook, Trenton
 Calvert Clyde Farmer, Elmwood
 Dennis Ray Garber, Route 2, Jonesboro
 Dwayne G. Hodges, Route 9, Sevier-ville
 Dennis Latham, Jr., Route 1, Beech Bluff

Clyde Lockwood Marine, Route 11,
Fountain City
Joe Moore, Granville
Howard Allen Norton, RFD 2, Union
City
Don D. Osborne, Route 9, Jonesboro
Franklin Riddick, Route 3, Dyers-
burg
Stanton Shumake, Jr., Elmwood
Phil E. Terry, RR 3, Sparta

Texas

Jerry Allen, Leaday
William Kenneth Bartley, Route 1,
Mabank
Charles E. Bratcher, Route 3, Box
117, Muleshoe
John Thomas Brigham, Route 2,
Plano
Jerry Al Brown, Box 83, Grapeland
Billy Glenn Carwile, Robert Lee
Donald Cunningham, Grapeland
Max Due, Route 1, Groveton
Daniel Ehlers, Shiner
Dannie Gansky, Box 374, Schulen-
burg
Tommy Gavin, Route 2, Caddo Mills
Jack M. Graham, Route 1, Silvertown
Monte Everette Griffin, Star Route
4, Lamesa
Allen James Hagel, Kerr Route,
Fredericksburg
J. B. Haisler, Jr., Route 1, Denton
Freddie R. Hamilton, Silvertown
Elwood Earl Harbers, Route 1, Bart-
lett
Billy Haynes, Route 2, Box 76, Mar-
shall
John Bob Hendrick, Box 154, Santo
Denzil Hestilow, Whitney
Jimmy Roy Higgins, Star Route 1,
Baird
Albert C. Kast, Fredericksburg
Marvin Luedeker, Route 1, Craw-
ford
Glenn Morrow, Route 4, Box 105,
San Benito
Charles Wesley Nichols, Box 125,
Leakey
Melrose M. Nitsche, Route 1, Box
187A, Converse
Donald E. Patterson, Route 1, Box
73, Slaton
Larry Persyn, Box 55, Leming
Jerome W. Pietzsch, Star Route,
Hamilton
Johnny Joe Polasek, Route 3, Box
297, LaGrange
Eugene Sansing, Route 3, Cooper
Edwin Wallek, Jr., Skidmore
Jesse Lee Wied, Box 47, Fayetteville
Henry Williams, RR 2, Kosse

Wayne Williams, Route 7, Box 224,
Nacogdoches
Frankie Winfrey, Sulphur Springs
Milburn Eugene Wink, Sanco Route,
Robert Lee
Charlie Wood Rice, Old Bullard Rd.,
Tyler

Utah

Lynn F. Cheal, Smithfield
Max L. Christensen, Delta
Jerold N. Johnson, Aurora

Vermont

Donald Dudley Carleton, West New-
bury

Virginia

Thomas Kent Adams, Whitethorne
Gentry Thomas Fields, Route 4, Box
448, Roanoke
Lennie Howard Gamage, Carters-
ville
Roy E. Hopkins, RFD, Louisa
Ben Patton Middleton, Herndon
Hershel Preston Richardson, Jr.,
Sugar Grove
William Brooks Simmons, Route 1,
Stuart
James R. Tickle, RFD 2, Pulaski

Washington

Jose Agbisit, Box 481, Wapato
Dale John Annis, Route 2, Snohom-
ish
George Frederick Eiene, Route 1,
Everson
Ellis M. Keck, Route 2, Monroe
Larry G. King, Route 2, Prosser
Theodore J. Martin, Star Route, Box
322-72, Quincy

West Virginia

K. Gordon Anderson, Jr., Rockport
Edward Lee Boyd, Rippon
Charles Delbert Cole, Auburn
Darrell Gene Echols, Keenan
Billy Cooper Shiley, Ridgeway

Wisconsin

Peter Michael Bodette, Route 1,
Boyceville
Francis J. J. Boston, Route 1, Jeffer-
son
Bernard Joseph Conlin, Columbus
Francis M. Galligan, Route 3, Ash-
land
Donald C. Hale, Clinton
Frederick Heberlein, Fennimore
Melvin O. Kingslien, Route 1, Viro-
qua
Byron Richard Kopp, Galesville

August A. Linse, Jr., Route 3, Eau Claire
 Lyle Oldenburg, Route 3, White-water
 Leonard R. Olson, Gays Mills
 Louis A. Salzwedel, Markesan

Ralph M. Weirich, Route 2, Baraboo
 Wyoming
 Karl B. Meyer, Medicine Bow
 Raymond G. Peterson, 1302 Person Road, Cheyenne



1955 STAR FARMERS

A scene from the program which featured the presentation of Star American Farmer Awards.

The presentation of awards in the National Chapter Award Program was then made.

The meeting adjourned with the closing ceremony.

Tuesday, October 11, 1955

Evening Session

The third session of the convention was called to order at seven twenty-five o'clock with the opening ceremony, President Gunter presiding.

Musical selections were presented by the national band and chorus.

The Massing of State Flags by the State Star Farmers was presented, after which the National Vice Presidents presented the Star Farmer Awards for 1955.

The meeting adjourned with the closing ceremony.

Wednesday, October 12, 1955**Morning Session**

The fourth session of the convention was called to order at nine o'clock with the opening ceremony, President Gunter presiding.

Several musical selections were presented by the Plant City, Florida, String Band.

The first item of business was a proposed amendment to the National FFA Constitution. It had been recommended by the South Carolina Association to:

Amend Article XI, Section B, of the Constitution by inserting "and one additional delegate for each 5,000 active members or major fraction thereof, over the first 5,000 members" in line 4 after "convention". The rest of Section B would remain the same.

The recommendation of the National Board of Student Officers and National Board of Directors concerning this amendment was that it be rejected. After some discussion it was moved by Howell of Kentucky to accept the recommendation of the National Board of Student Officers and National Board of Directors concerning this amendment; motion seconded by Hoskins of Washington and carried.

President Gunter asked all past national officers to come to the platform and introduce themselves and tell the delegates and audience something about their present programs. Those present were: Merrill Cartwright and Bob Taylor.

The next item of business was another proposed amendment to the National Constitution, which had been submitted by the Florida Association. This proposal would amend the Constitution to the effect that another national officer would be added called the Chaplain. It was the recommendation of the National Board of Directors and National Board of Student Officers that this proposed amendment to the Constitution be rejected. Some discussion was held by the delegates and it was then agreed to discontinue discussion on this amendment and bring it up again at a later session.

President Gunter introduced guests who were present from the following foreign countries: Bolivia, Burma, Finland, Formosa, India, Indonesia, Israel, The Philippines, Thailand, and Turkey.

An interview was then held by Mr. W. A. Rhumann, Farm Editor of WBAP, Fort Worth, Texas, with the participants in the International Youth Exchange. Joe Faure of California, spoke for the FFA members who participated in the Exchange. The four young men from Great Britain interviewed were: Derek Goodwin, Iolo Owen, Bruce Seaman, and Vivian Walton. The three other FFA



Mr. W. A. Rhumann, Farm Editor of WBAP, Fort Worth, Texas, and the representatives in the International Youth Exchange who were interviewed by him at the convention. They are—(left to right) Mr. Rhumann; Derek Goodwin, England; Iolo Owen, Wales; Joe Faure, California; Bruce Seaman, England; and Vivian Walton, England.

members who participated in the Exchange and were not present for the interview were: Frank Wilson of Pennsylvania, Larry Royer of Illinois, and Max Berry of Oklahoma.

Central Regional Vice President Lowell Gisselbeck presented his report and moved its adoption; motion seconded by York of Arizona and carried.

The national band and chorus presented a few musical selections.

President Gunter introduced Mr. Herschel Newsom, Master of the National Grange, after which Mr. Newsom made an address.

A pageant entitled "Patriotism and the FFA" was then presented.

The meeting adjourned with the closing ceremony.

Wednesday, October 12, 1955

Afternoon Session

The fifth session of the convention was called to order at two o'clock, President Gunter presiding.

President Gunter appointed committees and the meeting then recessed for committee work.

(NOTE: The afternoon session was spent on tours to points of interest in Kansas City by those who were not doing committee work.)

Wednesday, October 12, 1955

Evening Session

The sixth session of the convention was called to order at eight o'clock with the opening ceremony, President Gunter presiding.

A few musical selections were rendered by the national band and chorus.

Representatives from each of the donors to the Future Farmers of America Foundation, Incorporated were called to the platform and introduced to the convention.

President Gunter presented a special plaque to Mr. A. F. Davis, Chairman of the Future Farmers of America Foundation Sponsoring Committee, after which Mr. Davis made a brief address.

Presentation of Future Farmers of America Foundation, Incorporated Awards for 1955 were made by the national officers.

The meeting adjourned with the closing ceremony.

Thursday, October 13, 1955

Morning Session

The seventh session of the convention was called to order at nine o'clock with the opening ceremony, President Gunter presiding.

Musical selections were rendered by the national band and chorus.

The first item of business was the continuation of the discussion of the proposed amendment to the constitution which would add another national officer called the Chaplain. After further discussion it was moved by Colvin of Oregon to reject this amendment to the National Constitution; motion seconded by Myers of South Dakota and carried.

Southern Regional Vice President Robert H. Futrelle presented his report and moved its adoption; motion seconded by McKnight of Arkansas and carried.

The next item of business was the suggested official policies regarding the use and authorization for use of the name and emblem of the FFA. These suggested policies had previously been sent to all State Associations and each delegate had received a copy of them.

Student Secretary Brouillette read the suggested policies. It was then moved by Akers of Virginia that the suggested official policies regarding the use and authorization for use of the name and emblem of the FFA be adopted; motion seconded by Wilburn of Louisiana and carried.

Mr. Harry Andrews, Assistant Manager of the Future Farmers Supply Service, gave a brief report on the Supply Service.

Pacific Regional Vice President Jay Wright presented his report and moved its adoption; motion seconded by Repp of Colorado and carried.

Neil Milner of Ohio presented the report of the Program of Work Committee and moved its adoption; motion seconded by Crenshaw of New Mexico and carried.

David Risinger of Texas presented the report of the National Convention Committee and moved its adoption; motion seconded by Curtis of Utah and carried.

Student Secretary Philip Brouillette presented his report and moved its adoption; motion seconded by Wold of North Dakota and carried.

Mr. Lano Barron, Editor, of The National FUTURE FARMER Magazine, gave a report on the magazine.

Freddy North of Arizona presented the report of the National Magazine Committee and moved its adoption; motion seconded by Miller of Wyoming and carried.

Mr. Fred Seely of the Osborne Company made a report on the national calendar.

President Gunter introduced Mr. A. Z. Baker, President of the Rotary International; after which Mr. Baker presented an address.

Jerry Litton of Missouri presented the report of the Public Speaking Contest committee and moved its adoption; motion seconded by Lukes of Minnesota and carried.

Pacific Regional Vice President Jay Wright assumed the chair.

President Gunter presented his report and moved its adoption; motion seconded by Hoskins of Washington and carried.

President Gunter resumed the chair.

The meeting adjourned with the closing ceremony.

Thursday, October 13, 1955

Afternoon Session

The final session of the convention was called to order at one-thirty o'clock with the opening ceremony, President Gunter presiding.

Jim Hogan of Oklahoma presented the report of the Proceedings Committee and moved its adoption; motion seconded by Collins of West Virginia and carried.

Jerry Tlucek of Idaho presented the report of the Public Relations Committee and moved its adoption; motion seconded by Conlin of Wisconsin and carried.

Charles Wendt of Illinois presented the report of the FFA Foundation Committee and moved its adoption; motion seconded by McKnight of Arkansas and carried.

Jimmy Hunt of North Carolina presented the report of the National Chapter Award Program Committee and moved its adoption; motion seconded by Carlson of Idaho and carried.

Victor Cappucci of Pennsylvania presented the report of the Official Manual Committee and moved its adoption; motion seconded by Herman of Nebraska and carried.

Rowley Curtis of Utah presented the report of the Auditing Committee and moved its adoption; motion seconded by Welk of Pennsylvania and carried.

Charles Jackson of Indiana presented the report of the American Farmer Committee and moved its adoption; motion seconded by McKenzie of North Dakota and carried.

Howell of Kentucky moved that the National Board of Student Officers and National Board of Directors be given authority to edit all committee reports as necessary; motion seconded by Myers of South Dakota and carried.

Executive Secretary Tenney presented the budget for 1955-56. It was moved by McComb of Kansas to adopt the budget; motion seconded by Ebel and carried.

National FFA Budget

JULY 1, 1955 THROUGH JUNE 30, 1956

Anticipated Revenue:

Membership dues	\$39,000.00
Royalties	25,000.00
Old Mill	2,000.00
Supply Service—Rent	1,500.00
Supply Service—Grant	7,500.00
Appropriated from Surplus.....	10,765.00
Miscellaneous	125.00

Total anticipated revenue.....	\$85,890.00
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Estimated Disbursements:

I. Travel	\$20,400.00
II. Convention	16,190.00
III. American Farmer Keys.....	3,800.00
IV. Printing	5,600.00
V. National Office	24,520.00
VI. National Camp and Old Mill.....	2,480.00
VII. Judging Expenses	500.00
VIII. The National Future Farmer.....	10,000.00
IX. Retirement	750.00
X. Contingent	1,650.00

Total estimated disbursements.....	\$85,890.00
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1955-56 NATIONAL FFA OFFICERS

(Standing, left to right)—Dale Ring, Vice President; Lynn Loosli, Vice President; Allen Colebank, Vice President. (Seated, left to right)—Dan Dunham, President; Terrell Benton, Jr., Student Secretary; and Lennie Gamage, Vice President.

Wendt of Illinois moved that the annual FFA dues remain at ten cents per member; motion seconded by Farner of New York and carried.

Joe Faure of California presented the report of the Resolutions Committee and moved its adoption; motion seconded by Marsh of South Carolina. It was moved by Marlow of Delaware to amend the report by adding thanks to the "Coke Time" Program and Eddie Fisher; motion seconded by Earhart of Ohio and carried.

The District V, Minnesota, FFA Swing Band presented a few musical selections.



Dan Dunham, National President, 1955-56 (left) presents Bill Gunter, National President, 1954-55, with the gavel he used to open the convention.

Lemmy Wilson of Tennessee presented the report of the Nominating Committee and moved its adoption; motion seconded by Johnson of Oregon and carried. The candidates for national office were called to the platform. There being no nominations from the floor, it was moved by Beatty of Michigan that the candidates be elected to national office; motion seconded by Wilburn of Louisiana and carried.

The newly elected President, Dan Dunham, presented Bill Gunter with the gavel he used to open the convention.

President-elect Dunham then presented each of the past officers with official national officer pins and certificates.

The convention was adjourned sine die at three ten o'clock with the closing ceremony.

Committee Reports

Report of Auditing Committee

We, the members of the Auditing Committee, have inspected the books kept by the National Treasurer, Dr. Dowell J. Howard, and audited by Leach, Calkins and Scott, Certified Public Accountants, for the period July 1, 1954 through June 30, 1955, and find that they are accurate and in proper order.

Respectfully submitted,

ROWLEY CURTIS, Utah (Chairman)
JAMES HOWELL, Kentucky
FRANK GROMLICK, New Jersey
ROBERT YORK, Arizona
MERLE MYERS, South Dakota
NEIL BAIN, Alabama
TEDDY WILCOX, New Mexico

Report of the Committee on American Farmer Applications

We have reviewed the 1955-56 American Farmer Degree Application Form as revised by the National Board of Student Officers and National Board of Directors. The committee recommends that the convention delegates accept the revisions.

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES JACKSON, Indiana
(Chairman)
STANLEY HANNA, Iowa
PETE KNUTSON, Montana
RICHARD G. JAMES, Delaware
WILLIAM APLIN, Florida
DANNY BOURLAND, Arkansas
PAT DONLAN, Nebraska

Report of the Committee on the National Chapter Award Program

We, the National Chapter Award Program Committee, having given careful consideration to the present National Chapter Award Program feel that certain changes would not only simplify, but also strengthen and improve the present program.

Our recommendations are as follows:

1. That the applications for Standard, Superior, and National Awards be consolidated into a single application, and that the specific items which must be met in order to qualify for each individual rating be designated.

2. That space be provided at the end of each division for the listing of one additional item not covered in the listed standards.

3. That the revised application for the National Chapter Awards also serve as a form for the Annual Chapter Report.

4. That a scoring system be set up allotting a definite number of points for each division.

5. That the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Emblem Awards be awarded on the following basis:

A. A specific minimum number of points be accumulated.

B. An allotted percentage not be exceeded.

Realizing that the suggested changes will require much consideration and editing, we recommend that the National Board of Student Officers be delegated the authority to study these recommendations and take whatever action they think advisable.

Respectfully submitted,

JIMMY HUNT, JR., North Carolina
(Chairman)

BILL COLLINS, West Virginia

DON HERMAN, Nebraska

NATHAN REESE, Oklahoma

ROBERT WELK, Pennsylvania

CONRAD HOSKINS, Washington

MARVIN COLBURN, New Hampshire

BILL CARLSON, Idaho

Report of the Committee on the National Convention

We, the members of the Committee on National Convention, convened and offer the following recommendations:

1. That more time be devoted to the transaction of business at the national convention.

2. That the committee appointments be made at the beginning of the convention so delegates can prepare for their committee work.

3. That all the business to be transacted at the convention be compiled in one work envelope and given to the delegates at the first session.

4. To encourage more attendance at each session of the convention by various means.

5. That more chapters be encouraged to send representatives.

6. That more emphasis be placed on the various State exhibits and recognition be given the outstanding exhibits at the convention.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVID RISINGER, Texas (Chairman)

J. W. RUNKLES, Maryland

ALAN ALBERS, Wisconsin

TED DAVENPORT, South Carolina

LARRY YOUNG, Georgia

JOE RUSS, California

JOSEPH SANTOS, Rhode Island

Report of the Committee on FFA Foundation

It is with sincerity that we, the Foundation Committee, representing the entire National membership of the Future Farmers of America, express our deepest appreciation to the many donors of the Future Farmers of America Foundation.

We know that the encouragement and increase in opportunities has enabled us as Future Farmers, to obtain greater heights in agriculture and life. Our special thanks to Mr. A. F. Davis, Secretary of the James F. Lincoln Arc Welding Foundation for serving as the Foundation Chairman for this past year.

Again, our thanks to the donors for their continued support.

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES WENDT, Illinois

(Chairman)

RALPH LANZ, Connecticut

MILTON MILLER, Wyoming

JOHN G. McCOMB, Kansas

PAUL HOMAN, West Virginia

SAMUEL BERKOWITZ, Connecticut



Representatives of Donors to the Future Farmers of America Foundation.

Report of the National FFA Magazine Committee

We, the National Magazine Committee, hereby submit the following recommendations and commendations:

1. Encourage subscribers to give correct addresses, consisting of names, route, box number, town and state. Members who do not receive the magazine regularly should write the magazine office immediately.

2. Encourage members to send in articles of national interest, making sure they are correct and prompt.

3. Encourage sale of magazine by discussing it at State conventions.

4. Encourage all states to strive toward 100 per cent participation.

5. Members of magazine staff attend as many state conventions as possible.

6. Welcome suggestions for improvement in the form of letters from chapter members. The magazine belongs to the FFA and these suggestions will be welcome at all times.

7. The magazine is on all flights of one of the major airlines. We wish to encourage the expansion of their program.

8. The Editor, the Board of Student Officers, and the Board of Directors are to be given full authority to make any and all changes deemed necessary and advisable for the betterment of the magazine.

The committee wishes to thank the national officers for their backing of the magazine. Our thanks go also to Mr. Lano Barron and his staff for their untiring efforts on behalf of the magazine.

We wish to commend the staff of the magazine for their improvement of the magazine, in having more and better articles, a larger circulation, bi-monthly issues, an increased staff of two past national officers and a former state FFA editor.

Respectfully submitted,

FREDDY NORTH, Arizona
(Chairman)

PAUL YARBROUGH, Georgia

DONALD CATALUNA, Hawaii

DON MAGRUDER, Missouri

JIMMY LANE, Wyoming

DON MCKENZIE, North Dakota

Report of the Official Manual Committee

We, the members of the Official Manual Committee, recommend the following revisions:

1. The names of the men who originated the Creed and Motto be included in the Manual.

2. That further action be taken on the proposal made in 1953 that a portion be included in the Manual concerning TV programs.
3. Recognition be given the National FFA Magazine in the Manual.
4. A photo of the assembly floor while the convention is in session be included in further publications of the Manual.

We, the members of the committee, also feel that more emphasis be placed on the proper use and display of the Official FFA Jacket as stated in Section 7, under the heading, "The Proper Use of the Official FFA Jacket." School letters and insignia of other organizations should not be attached to or worn on the jacket.

Respectfully submitted,

VICTOR CAPPUCCI, Pennsylvania
(Chairman)

SHELDON LUKES, Minnesota

CARL LOVLEY, Maine

EUGENE MIXON, Florida

BURKE JOHNSON, Utah

DENNIS WOLD, North Dakota

LEROY FISCHER, Illinois

Report of the Public Relations Committee

We, the committee on Public Relations for 1955-56 go on record as recommending the following:

1. That we, as Future Farmers of America, encourage to our greatest ability the cooperation of the Student Exchange between the United States and other countries.
2. That local chapters be encouraged to select outstanding members and representatives to speak before civic and youth groups, etc.
3. That local chapters make a special effort to observe National FFA Week by use of newspaper coverage, display ads, advertisement folders, window displays, radio and television, and other farm and civic groups.
4. That State and local associations participate in radio and television programs throughout the entire year.
5. That the third edition of the pictorial brochure "Future Farmers of America . . . In Action," be completed at the earliest convenience of the public relations department.
6. That local chapters make a determined effort to see that the *National FUTURE FARMER Magazine* is placed in high school, college and public libraries.

7. That our national officers continue the policy of a good-will tour and that State associations and local chapters also adopt this policy.

8. That delegates, award winners, guests of luncheons, breakfasts and dinners express their appreciation to the Foundation donors by personal note.

9. That local chapters invite local business men and agricultural leaders to chapter activities.

10. That each FFA member subscribe to the *National FUTURE FARMER Magazine*.

Respectfully submitted,

JERRY TLUCEK, Idaho (Chairman)
SHERM CARNEY, New Hampshire
HERBERT HOOVER, Iowa
FRANKLIN RATZLOFF, Colorado
JERRY SUTTON, North Carolina
YOSHIO NISHIMORE, Hawaii
RUDY ERICKSON, Wisconsin

Report of the Proceedings Committee

We, the Committee on Proceedings for 1955, recommend that this year's Proceedings follow the general outline of last year's Proceedings with the following changes and additions:

1. The following pictures accompanied by appropriate articles be included:

- a. Secretary Benson
- b. Mr. Stassen
- c. Mayor Bartle
- d. Mr. Newsom
- e. Mr. Baker
- f. Mr. Davis
- g. Official Delegates
- h. Pageant
- i. Star Farmer of America

We give the Board of Directors full power to make any necessary changes in this report.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM HOGAN, Oklahoma (Chairman)
DEAN EBEL, Kansas
EMMETT BARKER, Tennessee
JIM RUTLEDGE, Massachusetts
GARY HAFEN, Nevada
WAYNE NICHOLS, Maine
DENNIS REPP, Colorado



Members judge eggs in the National Judging Contest.

Report of Committee on a Guide for Local Chapters to Use in Developing the 1955-56 Program of Work

We, the Committee on the 1955-56 Program of Work, recommend that the following Guide for Use of Local FFA Chapters be used in planning the chapter program of work:

Item	Goals	Ways and Means
I. SUPERVISED FARMING		
1. Producing food and other farm products	100% member participation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Every member to have a comprehensive farming program consisting of two or more productive enterprises. b. Encourage members to have a home garden. c. Conduct a tour of farming programs. d. Conduct farm surveys to determine farming capabilities. e. Establish goals for labor income and production. f. Encourage student ownership of farming programs. g. Arrange for loans through regular commercial firms or through chapter loan fund. h. Rent chapter equipment to members. i. Conduct production contest.

Item	Goals	Ways and Means
2. Increasing size of farming programs	100% member participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> j. Encourage members to maintain and operate farm equipment. k. Provide public recognition for outstanding farming program. l. Assist members to obtain facilities for the supervised farming program. m. Give award to member of each class with most outstanding farming program. n. Give Star Farmer Award. o. Give Dairy Farming Award.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Each member to develop a farming program to the extent of his opportunities for establishment in full-time farming. b. Schedule student and former student guest speakers at chapter meetings to emphasize supervised farming programs. c. Have chapter farming program committee assist Green Hands in planning farming programs. d. Stimulate size and number of farming programs through use of an adult advisory committee. e. Encourage cooperation between student, parents and teacher in developing and planning a long-range supervised farming program.
3. Improving livestock and crop production	100% member participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Use recommended and tested practices in regard to seed, fertilizer and quality of livestock. b. Test seed, soil and milk. c. Spray crops and livestock with approved material. d. Aid members to obtain suitable seed and improved livestock. e. Maintain purebred sires for breeding. f. Use proven sires for breeding. g. Use recommended feeding practices. h. Cull poor animals. i. Use artificial insemination associations.

Item	Goals	Ways and Means
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> j. Form livestock and crop improvement associations among members. k. Post list of livestock and seed sources. l. Follow recommended irrigation practices. m. Control weeds.
4. Preventing livestock losses	100% member participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Urge careful handling of all livestock by members. b. Protect livestock through vaccination. c. Eliminate farm hazards. d. Improve loading and shipping facilities. e. Control growth of poisonous or noxious plants. f. Improve housing facilities. g. Use strict sanitation practices. h. Control parasites, insects and diseases. i. Encourage control of rabies and eradication of animals carrying this disease.
5. Farm Management practices	100% member participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Urge the keeping of accurate farm records. b. Improve management practices. c. Urge sound soil conservation practices. d. Make Soil & Water Management award. e. Use crop and livestock insurance for self protection.

II. COOPERATION

1. Providing experience in cooperative effort	100% member participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Encourage members to cooperate in chapter activities. b. Encourage members to become familiar with local, State and national cooperatives.
2. Investigate legal aspects and liabilities of chapter cooperatives	100% member participation	Urge chapters to secure legal counsel.
3. Cooperate with civic clubs, agricultural agencies and other organizations	100% member participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Have chapter members appear on programs of other organizations. b. Participate in activities sponsored by other organizations, such as scrap collections, the prevention of fires and community clean-up campaigns. c. Assist with fairs and shows.

Item	Goals	Ways and Means
4. Assist in promoting world-wide understanding and improvement of agriculture	100% member participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> d. Become members of other worthwhile organizations. a. Cooperate with recognized agencies such as CROP and CARE. b. Observe and support special resolution on international relations as adopted by the 28th convention of Future Farmers of America. c. Use material on international relations available through special presidential aid on world peace. d. Support and utilize farm youth exchange program.
III. COMMUNITY SERVICE		
1. Stress reconditioning of farm machinery and equipment	100% member participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Have chapter members service, repair, and adjust machinery and equipment. b. Encourage members to protect farm machinery from weather.
2. Guarding and protecting life and property	Chapter conduct safety program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Conduct fire and accident prevention surveys. b. Devote special meetings to farm safety. c. Show safety films to farm groups. d. Present safety programs to civic clubs. e. Display safety posters. f. Sponsor radio and TV programs on safety. g. Prepare appropriate releases for press on safety. h. Sponsor Fire Prevention Week. i. Conduct community clean-up drives. j. Emphasize farm safety at school assembly. k. Distribute farm safety literature to farmers. l. Keep first aid measures available. m. Present farm safety award to member who does the best work in safety promotion.
3. Conserving resources	100% member participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Plant trees. b. Build and repair terraces. c. Run contour lines. d. Construct drainage diversion ditches. e. Construct grass waterways and check dams.

Item	Goals	Ways and Means
		f. Construct farm ponds. g. Obtain legume seed for farms. h. Practice strip cropping. i. Make farm surveys. j. Set up a demonstration farm. k. Encourage wise use of fertilizers. l. Publicize the need for conservation. m. Send delegates to camp to learn more about conservation practices. n. Offer awards to members who achieve most in conservation. o. Develop wildlife areas. p. Plant food crops for wildlife. q. Provide wildlife feeding stations. r. Cooperate with wildlife officers and conservation agencies.
4. Maintaining farm buildings and equipment	100% member participation	a. Encourage all members to discover and make needed repairs. b. Sponsor clean-up and paint-up campaigns. c. Give award for Farm Mechanics.
5. General	100% member participation	a. Improve school facilities and landscape grounds. b. Sponsor campaigns for the eradication of pests and rodents. c. Sponsor educational programs. d. Contribute to charitable organizations. e. Promote community landscaping. f. Sponsor going-to-church campaign.
IV. LEADERSHIP		
1. Advancing members to higher degrees	Advance members to appropriate degrees	a. Urge careful and early explanation of requirements for degrees to Green Hands and members. b. Have official ceremonies used for the conferring of degrees.
2. Chapter library	Have an adequate library	a. Have members and others contribute books. b. Purchase books for library.

Item	Goals	Ways and Means
3. Public Speaking	100% member participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Purchase magazine subscriptions. d. Borrow books from circulating libraries. a. Hold a contest with all members participating. b. Chapter winner to appear in District contest. c. Present local Chapter Public Speaking award.
4. Parliamentary procedure	Conduct meetings according to accepted parliamentary procedure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Provide parliamentary training to all members. b. Enter parliamentary procedure contest. c. Provide each member with a booklet on parliamentary procedure. d. Elect a chapter parliamentarian.
5. Programs of Work	Have a written program of work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Revise program of work early. b. Form standing committees early in the year. c. Assign each member to one or more committees to carry out programs. d. Encourage member participation in developing the program of work. e. Submit program to chapter for discussion and approval. f. Print and distribute programs of work to all members and others who should receive it. g. Send program of work to State Association. h. Prepare and post activity calendar.
6. Leadership training	100% member participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Participate in State and district leadership training schools and conferences. b. Provide at least one local leadership training school or conference during the year. c. Participate in leadership training activities at State FFA Camp. d. Attend leadership training programs sponsored by other organizations.
7. Public Relations	Keep the public informed on what the FFA is and does	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Make extensive use of local, county and State newspapers. b. Obtain more and better pictures of FFA work for use in publicity.

Item	Goals	Ways and Means
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Present radio and television programs. d. Sponsor at least one local display. e. Keep in touch with former FFA chapter members. f. Encourage the use of official FFA clothing by members. g. Provide subscriptions to <i>The National FUTURE FARMER Magazine</i> to influential persons and to public libraries. h. Provide speakers for civic and other organizations. i. Present programs at school assemblies. j. Invite guests to attend meetings. k. Elect honorary members. l. Have public showings of FFA motion pictures. m. Invite public on tour to observe farming programs of members.
8. National FFA Week	100% member participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Observe National FFA Week during the week of George Washington's birthday. b. Use material supplied by the State Association in the promotion of FFA Week. c. Have appropriate official proclaim National FFA Week. d. Present displays on FFA during this week.

V. EARNINGS AND SAVINGS

1. Thrift	100% member participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Prepare a chapter budget. b. Keep chapter funds in a local bank or in school account. c. Organize an FFA thrift bank. d. Have treasurer make a report at each meeting. e. Call for periodic reports from auditing committee. f. Members and chapter purchase United States Savings Bonds. g. Emphasize thrift at one or more chapter meetings. h. Encourage members to make regular thrift deposits.
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Item	Goals	Ways and Means
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Encourage members to invest in farming. j. Present awards to members who have done outstanding work in thrift activities. k. Check candidates earnings before raising to next higher degree. l. Distribute U. S. Treasury literature on how and where to buy United States Savings Bonds.
2. Earning money for the local chapter	Earn enough money to finance chapter activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Have a group farm production enterprise. b. Operate concessions. c. Win contest and fair awards. d. Sell magazine subscriptions and books. e. Assess chapter dues. f. Sell seeds, plants, and nursery stock. g. Rent chapter equipment. h. Work for farmers. i. Sell greeting cards. j. Cooperate in sale of FFA calendar.

VI. CONDUCT OF MEETINGS

1. Official Manual	100% of members have access to Official Manual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Have every Green Hand purchase a Manual. b. Each other member to own a Manual. c. Study the Manual.
2. Official Secretary and Treasurer Books	Chapters use both books	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Purchase books from Future Farmers Supply Service. b. Have books kept up to date by officers. c. Have the secretary and treasurer books completed and filed as a part of permanent chapter records.
3. Official meeting paraphernalia, equipment and supplies	Provide standard materials with which to work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Acquire all necessary paraphernalia and equipment. b. Arrange all paraphernalia before starting meeting. c. Arrange for adequate storage space for equipment. d. Wear official jackets at meetings. e. Construct special officer stands for use during meetings. f. Have standard wall brackets made so officer stations may be placed on wall when desired.

Item	Goals	Ways and Means
4. Official Cermonies	Use proper official ceremonies at all meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. All officers to learn and rehearse their parts. b. Provide special training on ceremonies for new officers. c. Prepare appropriate demonstrations.
5. State Conventions	Chapter participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Have delegate or delegates attend State convention. b. Counsel delegates prior to State convention. c. Urge each candidate for the State Farmer Degree to attend. d. Prepare members to assist in the convention program e. Have members in State FFA Band and Chorus. f. Compete in State contests.
6. Meetings	Every member attend 100% of chapter meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Have regular chapter meetings preferably twice monthly. b. Call special meetings as needed. c. Hold at least two summer meetings. d. Schedule regular executive committee meetings. e. Prepare well-planned programs before meetings. f. Have one good entertainment feature for all members at each meeting. g. Urge attendance of members at federation or district meetings. h. Provide refreshments frequently. i. Post agenda on bulletin board before meetings. j. Invite guest speakers. k. Invite interested persons to meetings. l. Have a special theme for most meetings, such as National FFA Week, citizenship and thrift. m. Establish goals for membership attendance. n. Have frequent committee reports to keep members informed. o. Use each member on a meeting program at least once during year. p. Elect honorary members in recognition of service to chapter and community. q. Hold a special meeting for parents.

Item	Goals	Ways and Means
VII. SCHOLARSHIP		
1. Improved Scholarship	100% of members to attain a satisfactory scholarship record	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Develop appropriate scholarship goals for chapter members. b. Award suitable prizes to members with outstanding scholarship. c. Post honor rolls on bulletin board. d. Assign big brothers to help others. e. Devote special meetings to stress the importance of good scholarship and how to study. f. Require good scholarship for eligibility to be elected as a chapter officer. g. Encourage members to qualify for the honor roll and for honor societies. h. Check grades when reports are made and give necessary aid. i. Conduct special study periods and have advanced students serve as tutors. j. Invite former members now in college to give talks on the value of scholarship and of graduating from high school.
VIII. RECREATION		
1. Supervised Recreation	100% member participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Sponsor parent-and-son banquet. b. Sponsor recreation program in the local community. c. Organize a camping trip for the chapter. d. Encourage chapter members to attend State camp. e. Plan social parties. f. Engage in athletic competition. g. Conduct an educational tour. h. Provide recreational facilities for chapter members. i. Organize a chapter string band or quartet.
IX. GENERAL		
1. Membership	Every eligible boy a member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Urge all boys who are enrolled in vocational agriculture to become members of the FFA.

Item	Goals	Ways and Means
		b. Encourage boys who have completed high school to retain membership in the FFA as long as they are eligible.

Respectfully submitted,

NEIL MILNER, Ohio (Chairman)
 SAM WHITAKER, JR., Kentucky
 JOE COLVIN, Oregon
 R. G. AKERS, JR., Virginia
 HENRY J. FARNER, New York
 DANIEL ROBINSON, Vermont
 JACK MORRIS, Minnesota
 DENTON O'DELL, Mississippi

Report of the National Public Speaking Contest Committee

After reviewing the National Public Speaking Contest rules very carefully, we the members of the 1955 Public Speaking Contest Committee recommend that the national rules be continued as they are.

Respectfully submitted,

JERRY LITTON, Missouri (Chairman)
 GILBERT BARLOW, Delaware
 ALLEN MCKNIGHT, Arkansas
 DONN JOHNSON, Oregon
 DONNIE WILBURN, Louisiana
 JIM SHEPARD, Michigan
 RONALD TEAL, South Dakota
 WAYNE CUTTING, Rhode Island

Report of the Committee on Resolutions

Be it resolved that we the Committee on Resolutions for 1955, on the behalf of the Future Farmers of America extend our most sincere thanks and expressions of appreciation to the following persons and organizations who participated in or contributed to the success of the 28th national convention:

1. The 1954-55 national officers for their untiring efforts and unselfish work in planning and conducting the convention in a most commendable manner.
2. The members of the National Board of Directors for their able supervision and assistance in advancing the FFA.

3. The members of the Kansas City Advisory Committee for their continuing assistance in making this year's convention successful.

4. All railroads and their special representatives who are stimulating FFA efforts with valuable educational awards.

5. The Honorable H. Roe Bartle, Mayor of Kansas City, Missouri, and all Kansas citizens for their most hearty and warm welcome.

6. All donors to the Future Farmers of America Foundation, Inc. and all others who actually contributed toward making this our 28th national convention a success.

7. Mr. Clarence Hoff, Manager of the Municipal Auditorium for the sincerely cooperative spirit he has always exhibited toward the national FFA organization.

8. The businessmen and officials, and the management of the Municipal Auditorium for their efforts and services rendered in making this a most worthwhile trip to Kansas City.

9. All states supplying members to the national band, and to Dr. Henry S. Brunner, Pennsylvania State University, for his able conducting; and, also to the well-organized national chorus and their director, Dr. James W. Hatch, of Kinderhook, New York. Each individual member of these organizations is to be especially commended.

10. All companies who cooperated in the supplying of authorized general merchandise, banners, rings, emblems, stationery, etc.

11. All individuals and organizations who participated in furnishing entertainment to participants of the 28th national convention.

12. All judges, timekeepers and Future Farmers who participated in the public speaking contest and chapter award program.

13. All organizations and companies from which participants in the 1954-55 national FFA convention have benefited.

14. All honored guests of the 28th national convention.

15. All magazine, radio companies and newspapers who have so generously publicized the events transpiring at this convention.

16. All hotels and other housing facilities who have accommodated our FFA representatives.

17. All donors of prizes not previously mentioned.

18. All other individuals serving the FFA and assisting with the 28th national convention.

19. All representatives taking part in the impressive Massing of State Flags.

20. The Plant City, Florida, String Band; Kirke Pratt of South Dakota; and the District V String Band of Minnesota.

21. Visiting youth groups and delegations from foreign countries who visited our national convention.

22. All people who attended the 28th national convention.

23. All companies that were hosts to the FFA boys at their plants.

24. The Kansas City Chamber of Commerce and the American Royal Association.

25. Mr. A. F. Davis, Chairman of the Sponsoring Committee of the FFA Foundation, Inc., for his untiring efforts on behalf of the Foundation and for his inspiration through his participation in this convention.

26. The Honorable Ezra Taft Benson, Secretary of Agriculture, for his inspiring message to the FFA convention and his untiring efforts in the promotion of agriculture.

27. The Honorable Harold E. Stassen, Special Assistant to the President of the United States, for his belief in the worthiness of the FFA and his devoted interest in the promotion of world peace.

28. All participating chapters and personnel who directed the pageant depicting Patriotism and the FFA, we extend our appreciation for the impressive ceremony.

29. Mr. Raymond Firestone and his company for sponsoring the magnificent performance.

30. Mr. A. Z. Baker, President of Rotary International, for his interest in rural activities.

31. The State Associations who have prepared exhibits.

32. The Past National FFA Officers—we wish to express a note of appreciation.

33. Mr. Herschel Newsom, Master of the National Grange, for his belief that the Future Farmers of America are the future farm leaders of America.

34. The "Coke Time" Program and Eddie Fisher.

Be it resolved that the National Student Secretary prepare and deliver a letter to the Honorable Dwight D. Eisenhower, President of the United States, stating the regards of the National Organization of Future Farmers of America, that he might enjoy a complete and speedy recovery and that he may continue to serve his country as ably as he has in the past.

Be it resolved that the National Student Secretary prepare and deliver a letter to the Honorable Marion Folsom, Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, commending his office and the staff of the

Agricultural Education Branch particularly, for their support and interest in the past, and requesting their continued interest and support in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

JOSEPH FAURE, JR., California
(Chairman)

LARRY EARHART, Ohio

ELLIS BURGESS, Alabama

HOWARD SCHULTHEIS, Washington

JACKIE MARSH, South Carolina

PAUL COOPER, New Jersey

JAMES REARDON, Massachusetts

Report of the Nominating Committee

We, the Nominating Committee, do hereby submit the following candidates for National FFA Officers for the year 1955-56. After having given careful and deliberate consideration to all applicants, we offer the following slate of candidates for the delegates' consideration:

President.....Daniel Dunham, Lakeview, Oregon
Student Secretary.....Terrell W. Benton, Jr., Jefferson, Georgia

Vice Presidents:

North Atlantic Region,
Allen Colebank, Morgantown, West Virginia
Southern Region.....Lennie H. Gamage, Cartersville, Virginia
Pacific Region.....S. Lynn Loosli, Ashton, Idaho
Central Region.....Dale Ring, Wooster, Ohio
Advisor.....W. T. Spanton, Washington, D. C.
Executive Secretary.....A. W. Tenney, Washington, D. C.
Treasurer.....D. J. Howard, Richmond, Virginia

Respectfully submitted,

LEMMY WILSON, Tennessee
(Chairman)

ARVILLE NEWBY, Texas

GORDON SANDS, JR., New York

GERALD BONDS, New Mexico

BYRAN HAFEN, Nevada

THOMAS BEATTY, Michigan

HENRY COMEGYS, Maryland

SAM FRIEDMAN, Louisiana

A. WAYNE DRAKE, Indiana



Honorable H. Roe Bartle

H. ROE BARTLE

Mayor, Kansas City, Missouri

Future Farmers of America, we are blessed far above and beyond that, that we fully realize. You and I have opportunities supreme. I commend you for your interest in the field of agriculture. I thrill to your participation in this great and colorful convention of the Future Farmers of America. And, I say to you that if you love America and will be true to yourselves, you can make a contribution that cannot be measured in words or dollars or cents, a contribution that will bring you inner satisfaction and will bring hope to a troubled world.

You see, the way in which you can love America is to project your life into the things that really count, and if you do that, then you will have built well for your selfish self and for generations unborn.



Honorable Ezra Taft Benson

EZRA TAFT BENSON

Secretary, Department of Agriculture

Thirty-eight years ago the Smith-Hughes act was passed, setting up high school training for rural young people in vocational agriculture and home economics on a federal-state cooperative basis. Twenty-seven years ago the FFA was founded here in Kansas City. Today there are 383,219 active members in 8,868 local chapters located in the 48 states, Hawaii and Puerto Rico, and the program is still growing. Ten thousand vocational agriculture teachers provide the well-trained leadership for this movement.

Young men and young women who have received this training are now demonstrating its value. The program has proved itself. We in the Department of Agriculture are fully aware of the magnificent job being accomplished.

Your training in vocational agriculture will stand you in good stead no matter what you do. In studying vocational agriculture you learn manual skills and physical science; you learn social science and you learn the considerations which management must take into account. These are basic to any calling.

There are approximately a million farm boys of high school age. About 40 percent of them are enrolled in vocational agriculture classes. This percentage is increasing steadily and the quality of the training is improving. You Future Farmers are marching forward, and our hats are off to what you have done.



Mr. Herschel D. Newsom

HERSCHEL D. NEWSOM

Master, The National Grange

I am proud of my opportunity here this morning. It is an honor, first of all to appear before this great assembly of Future Farmers of America, because you are also the Future *Farm* Leaders of America.

I confess that I come to this meeting with certain warm and friendly feelings. Having been awarded the coveted degree of Honorary American Farmer, in October, 1951, and having also had similar recognition earlier at an Indiana State FFA meeting, I have a peculiarly personal feeling about the FFA.

With a great deal of interest, we shall watch America's progress as you assume greater rural opportunities and responsibilities. Yes, we believe in the future of farming . . . because we believe in *you*.

Finally, I want to say a few words about the value of living in an atmosphere of progress—or growth and development. Through most of our history, fortunately has been the prevailing atmosphere of America. You know how we settled this continent, developed our agriculture, and built our great industrial empire. We still have a long way to go. There are still *unlimited* possibilities—potentialities—for further progress and development. I say we are still a *young* nation. We are still growing. I cannot agree for a minute with those who say we have reached *maturity*—that we must look about us for ways to retrench.

Progress and better living come from people who *look ahead to the future with hope, aspiration, and faith*. Only trouble and

despair can follow a course of looking backward. Only frustration can follow an effort to maintain the status quo—a keeping of things as they are.

Agriculture is a dynamic, ever-changing, ever-growing occupation and way of life. When this is put together with the ambitions, vigor, and boldness of young men and women—like the Future Farmers of America—there is every reason to have confidence in the future of American agriculture. If I have gained anything from my experience that I can pass along to you, it is to urge that you put confidence in your own judgment and never doubt that you can accomplish more—and do things better.



Honorable Harold E. Stassen

HAROLD E. STASSEN

Special Assistant to the President

I salute the Future Farmers of America on this occasion. Your organization, has reflected that the people of our country are becoming increasingly aware of the indispensable role of agriculture of keeping our entire economy healthy and strong. The American people can and should take great pride in the American farm community and organizations of youth such as yours.

Your organization is a solid investment for tomorrow, insurance that the farmers of the future will successfully cope with the rising demands and multiple circumstances of our growing population and our great position in the world.

It is tremendously important that not only do we have a sense of humility and thankfulness to God for our accomplishments of a great nation, but that with that humility we have a sense of restraint toward other nations and toward problems in the world.

Do not underestimate, you men, the future farmers assembled here today, you future leaders in your own communities, in your own circles, do not underestimate the part you will play as farmers and as free men in seeing to it that the brightened prospects of recent months can ripen into a productive prosperous peace with freedom, justice, security and progress for ourselves and for others in the nations of the world.



Mr. A. Z. Baker

A. Z. BAKER

President, Rotary International

I am glad on this occasion to bring you the greetings of some 250,000 Rotarians in the United States, Hawaii and Puerto Rico, in some 4,500 Rotary Clubs across this great country.

As your president has told you, the Rotary Clubs in the United States, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico, have been very much interested in youth activities, and over the years they have taken a great interest in the activities of the Future Farmers of America, but this year, because the President of Rotary International is a farm boy, because throughout his business career he has been identified in some phase or another of agriculture or the livestock industry, the Rotary Clubs in this country will be giving more than usual attention to the activities of the Future Farmers of America.

Yours is a grand, forward looking organization. Your name implies that you are looking to the future and not looking backward. And this great organization of which I have the honor to be the president this year is also looking forward to trying to find out what it can do to help to develop the resources of this country and to protect it in the future, and I know through the youth of this country they find their greatest resource and their greatest opportunity for service.



Mr. A. F. Davis, Chairman of the Sponsoring Committee of the Future Farmers of America Foundation, receives a special plaque from Bill Gunter, National FFA President.

A. F. DAVIS

Secretary, James F. Lincoln Arc Welding Foundation

I am indeed happy to bring to you greetings from the donors to the Future Farmers of America Foundation, Inc.

I think the sponsors or donors can take a special and particular pride in their providing of funds for these awards to be given tonight which provide an incentive to help develop the latent abilities of the some 383,000 members of the Future Farmers of America.

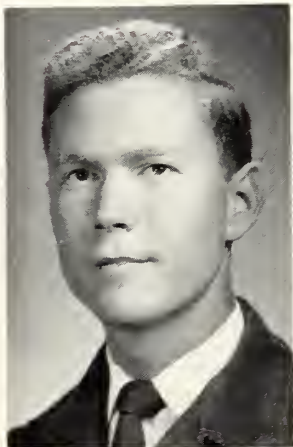
I first became acquainted with the Future Farmers when some seven or eight years ago I attended the national convention at Kansas City and I became greatly enthused over their work, their hopes, ambition, and ideals. This enthusiasm has continued through the years, in fact, it has increased with greater knowledge of their work. I have attended each national convention since that time and God willing, will continue to do so.

I have said many times that the FFA is the greatest youth organization in the world, not only for building better farmers but for building better citizens.

National Student Officer Reports

Report of the National President

My mind wanders back to an October day in 1954 when in a combined state of pride, humbleness, and gentle shock, I climbed the steps of this platform to assume the duties of National President of the Future Farmers of America. I clearly recall gazing out over



WILLIAM D. GUNTER, JR.
President

that vast convention audience and pondering the great organization we Future Farmers have inherited from former members and advisors. I thought of the vision of the men who established our organization in 1928, and reminded myself that if we take this heritage unthinkingly and for granted, we take the first step toward losing it. My wish expressed to the 27th national convention assembly was, "May the Heavenly Father grant us all the foresight and ability we need to live worthily as members of the FFA."

Twelve months, jam-packed with gratifying and educational experiences, have been torn from the calendar since that day. As a result of these varied experiences, I realize as never before that Future Farmers are not taking their heritage for granted. I have been inspired and amazed to see the vigor of alert and active members from coast to coast as they are working in a concentrated effort to increase the effectiveness of training in agriculture and leadership through the FFA.

When you elected me national president, you opened the way to a broader understanding on my part, of the national scope of our organization. As I present the following report of my activities, I shall do so with the hope that this summary might enable you to broaden your concept of the nation-wide program of the Future Farmers of America.

My official duties began during the final session of our 27th convention when I accepted the gavel from retiring President David Boyne. Before leaving Kansas City, I appeared on several radio and TV programs, including N.B.C.'s National Farm and Home Hour, and also enjoyed riding in the American Royal Parade procession with former Senator Harry Darby of Kansas.

On Sunday, October 17, I left the convention filled with eager anticipation at the prospects of the coming year, yet solemnly aware of the responsibilities and challenges that were ahead.

Early the following morning, my plane landed in Tallahassee, the Capital City of Florida, where I was surprised to be greeted by a host of county and state officials, and friends. After accepting honorary appointments to the staffs of the Governor and Commissioner of Agriculture, a motorcade assembled and our party traveled toward the Suwannee River and my home. Upon arriving in Live Oak, I found that school had been dismissed and hundreds of students and local people had assembled for a homecoming parade and reception. I shall always recall with humble gratitude this happy occasion when so many friends of my community expressed their earnest wishes for success during the year ahead.

Soon I was fully occupied with a tight schedule of meetings, including fall fairs, farm organizations, civic clubs, and FFA chapters. Among my most enjoyable assignments during these early weeks in office was a series of talks and slide presentations on my impressions of British agriculture, industry, and living customs, gained during the previous summer while traveling as a participant in the FFA Exchange Program.

December 11-15, I represented our organization at the American Farm Bureau Federation Convention in New York City, where it was my pleasure to address the youth delegates. From the Empire State, I hurried home in order to join my fellow local members at the tenth anniversary celebration of the Suwannee Chapter, marked by a banquet given in my honor.

During the opening days of 1955, I was kept busy by the advent of the FFA banquet season. After speaking before several of these local groups, I drove to Tallahassee with State President Colin Williamson to obtain a proclamation from Governor Leroy Collins which would initiate National FFA Week in Florida the following month.

On January 25, the semester completed at the University of Florida, I traveled to Washington, D. C. to begin four of the most interesting and worthwhile weeks of my life. It was a pleasure to join my fellow officers again and to hear of their grand experiences since October. The following days in the Nation's Capital included a meeting with representatives of donors to the FFA Foundation, the January National Student Officers' business sessions held in conjunction with the National Board of Directors, a visit to the Supply Service and national magazine offices, and a leadership training school conducted by Dr. Tenney, National Executive Secretary. In addition, we found time to meet with officials in government, business, and agricultural organizations. A luncheon provided by General Motors; a dinner meeting with representatives of the Foundation for American Agriculture; a visit with Herschel Newsom, Master of the National Grange, and his associates; an informal luncheon with American Institute of Cooperation leaders and representatives of other national agricultural groups; a profitable discussion session, with Mr. Wheeler McMillen, Editor of "Farm

Journal," and his son Robert McMillen, assistant to the U. S. Secretary of Agriculture, serving as hosts; and a luncheon in the Capitol Building arranged by Senators Holland and Smathers of Florida, with Vice President Richard Nixon, former Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, Oveta Culp Hobby and the senators of the officers' home states being present, were among the memorial experiences of the week.

February 2, our last day in Washington, will always be remembered as one of the most thrilling days of my life, for at that time your national officers visited the White House for a conference with the President of the United States. It was inspiring to hear President Eisenhower fondly recall his association with our organization at the Silver Anniversary Convention, which he addressed two years ago. We were also privileged to interview Secretary Hobby and Commissioner of Education S. M. Brownell during the morning.

Later, that same day, Dr. Spanton, our National Advisor; Dr. Tenney and your officers boarded a northbound train to begin three weeks of visits with friends of the FFA in business and industry. Every year, this Good-Will Tour provides the opportunity for leaders of business, industry, and national organizations to become better acquainted with our organization. At the same time, it gives the national officers a first-hand view of the activities of the groups visited, and a chance to meet and exchange ideas with the executives who direct their affairs.

Our party arrived in New York City on the morning of February 3. Soon we were busy following the intensive schedule of the day, which included a conference with officials of Esso Standard Oil Company, lunch as guests of American Cyanamid Company, and a tour of a U. S. Rubber Company plant across the river in Newark, New Jersey. February 4, found us visiting the offices of the Dairymen's League Cooperative, eating lunch with representatives of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, and other outstanding business leaders, and discussing the importance of chemicals in agriculture at a dinner meeting with executives of Allied Chemical and Dye Corporation. The following morning we met Mr. Phil Alampi, National Broadcasting Company Farm Director and a former American Farmer and Vocational Agriculture teacher, who interviewed us for a series of transcribed radio programs to be broadcast during FFA Week. On February 7, the officers visited the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and participated in an interesting tour and discussion there. At noon, we went to the Waldorf Astoria Hotel for lunch with officials of the Grocery Manufacturers of America, Inc. Following this fine occasion, and as our final appointment in New York, we were thrilled to have the opportunity of appearing on the nationwide "Voice of Firestone" radio and television program with Mr. Raymond Firestone.

Our next stop was in the steel city of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where we were graciously received by officials of U. S. Steel Cor-

poration, enjoyed lunch as a courtesy of Westinghouse Electric Corporation, and were guests of the Aluminum Company of America for a fine tour and dinner meeting.

Late that evening we traveled by train to Akron, Ohio, in order to meet February 9 and 10 engagements with the various rubber companies of that city. Representatives of Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company were our hosts for breakfast the following morning, after which we toured several factory buildings, including an aircraft plant, and had lunch with additional Goodyear executives. The remaining portion of the day was profitably spent inspecting the research laboratories of B. F. Goodrich and enjoying fellowship with leaders of this company at a dinner given in our honor. The General Tire and Rubber Company was our breakfast host the next morning. Following a visit to their display room, we joined officials of Firestone Tire and Rubber Company for lunch and an interesting period of discussion. During the evening we were privileged to relax and partake of a delicious, home-cooked meal at the farm residence of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Firestone, located near Akron.

On February 11, in Cleveland, Ohio, our group began a busy schedule by appearing on an N.B.C. farm radio broadcast. During the day we observed actual production methods in the factories of Republic Steel Corporation and Lincoln Electric Company. At noon, we were guests of the aforementioned companies, and the American Steel and Wire Company at a very fine luncheon given in conjunction with the Farmers' Club of the city. While in Cleveland, we enjoyed discussing plans for the promotion of the Future Farmers of America Foundation with Mr. A. F. Davis of Lincoln Electric Company, who is the chairman of the Sponsoring Committee this year.

Early the following day we stepped out of our railroad sleeping car at the terminal in Detroit, Michigan. Our official activities began that morning at a meeting and educational tour with friends of the Stran Steel Division of Great Lakes Steel Corporation. Ford Motor Company was our gracious host during morning visits, February 14, to their Rotunda display room and automobile assembly plant. After lunch with officials of the Ford Tractor and Implement Division, we joined representatives of General Motors Corporation and traveled to Pontiac, Michigan, for an inspection tour of the Pontiac assembly plant and an evening of good food and fellowship. On our final day in Detroit, we toured the Dodge Truck assembly plant, a division of Chrysler Corporation, and called on friends at the S. S. Kresge Company offices.

The windy city of Chicago, Illinois, was next on our schedule of stops. There, our group met with executives of International Harvester Company, who transported us to the unique Museum of Science and Industry for a tour. Following this interesting experience, we visited leaders of the Oliver Corporation and the National Livestock Producers Association and were guests of the Sears-Roebuck Foundation for dinner. On February 17, it was a pleasure to renew acquaintances with Mr. Charles B. Shuman, President of

the American Farm Bureau Federation. Excellent visits and worthwhile talks with officials of Kraft Foods Company and Swift and Company were also enjoyed during the day.

Early February 18, we appeared on a TV farm broadcast, after which friends of Quaker Oats Company, International Minerals and Chemical Corporation, and Armour and Company welcomed us to their headquarters for a series of impressive meetings. Your officers were exceedingly happy to join the men of Standard Oil Company of Indiana that evening in a surprise birthday party honoring Lowell Gisselbeck. The following day saw me remaining in Chicago to talk about FFA Week on the National Farm and Home Hour radio program while others in our party continued to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, for a visit and tour of Allis-Chalmers Manufacturing Company. Upon arriving in Milwaukee, I joined the group and on February 20, we were guests of the late Mr. W. A. Roberts, Past President of Allis-Chalmers, and Mrs. Roberts for a memorial evening and informal dinner in their home. Mr. Roberts will always be remembered for his services to our organization climaxed by a term as Chairman of the Sponsoring Committee of the FFA Foundation.

From Milwaukee, we made our way to Racine, Wisconsin, where on February 21, officials of J. I. Case Company welcomed us with a friendly luncheon meeting and informative tour of their museum of old machinery. That afternoon, the Good-Will Tour was concluded at the offices and plant of Massey-Harris-Ferguson, Inc.

As I look back on the three weeks just outlined, many things come to mind that I would like to share with you, if time only permitted. It is important, in my thinking, for you to realize that all of the priceless experiences and courtesies extended to your officers on the tour were further evidences of the high regard held among leaders of business, industry, and various organizations for the Future Farmers of America, and you—the individual members. The officers learned during the tour that the FFA can always depend on these friends for support and encouragement. I am extremely proud to be a member of an organization whose activities attract the good will and active sponsorship of so many outstanding representatives of government, industry and agriculture.

After only four short days in the sunny South, I boarded a plane for Madison, Wisconsin, where it was my privilege to join American Farm Bureau young people once again as we met in leadership training sessions held February 27-March 1. While there I spent a delightful evening at the dairy farm home of Ivan Kindschi, 1939-40 National FFA President, and also traveled to Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin, to speak to Future Farmers and parents as a part of their chapter banquet program.

Upon returning to Florida, I found myself busy with a full two weeks schedule of banquet and civic club appearances. March 18, saw me journey to Tampa to observe a portion of the Florida Vocational Association Convention and speak to members of the

Vocational Education Division. On March 26, after another seven days of attending FFA functions in the state, I traveled to Georgia's Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College to participate on a program with Marilyn Middleton, past National Vice President of the Future Homemakers of America. This stop was made en route to Memphis, Tennessee, site of the Southern Regional Conference of Vocational Agriculture Supervisors and Teacher Trainers, March 27-31. In Memphis, I felt it an opportunity to broaden my understanding of the activities and problems of the men who give us, as Future Farmers, undetermined amounts of valuable assistance.

Just twelve hours after leaving Tennessee, I arrived in the southeastern Texas town of Livingston, where I enjoyed a full week of business and pleasure as the guest of the alert Livingston FFA Chapter. These memorable days were climaxed on April 8, when I was honored to be a judge in the sweetheart contest held in connection with the Trinity-Neches District livestock show and FFA rodeo.

The next ten days in Florida were spent attending a number of meetings and giving Dad a rest from the chores on our dairy farm. On April 20, I headed for the wide-open spaces of Oklahoma to begin a series of state convention visits which proved to be among my most pleasant assignments as a national officer. In Stillwater, I was impressed with the efficiency of State President Max Berry, his fellow officers, and the Oklahoma Future Farmers as they participated in a colorful and inspiring convention program. On the morning of the 22nd, I hurried to Columbia, Missouri, to catch up with the eager FFA members of that state, who had already begun a full schedule of convention activities. The business sessions there were particularly interesting to observe, since the delegates took an active part in the discussions. Much credit is due President John Hanes and his team of officers for an excellent program.

April 26, saw me arriving in Assumption, Illinois, to spend several days in the home of Larry Royer, State FFA President, and his fine parents. After various local appearances, a visit to the state office, and a brief tour of Illinois, which added to an already delightful stay, I journeyed to Kansas State College for the Kansas FFA Convention, May 2-3. Dean Peter and his fellow state officers were kept extremely busy during these days conducting interesting delegate sessions and educational judging and leadership contests.

From the Sunflower State, my schedule took me westward, through the rugged Rocky Mountains, to Las Vegas, Nevada, where I met Jay Wright in order that we might travel together to the California FFA Convention, held May 9-10. At this, the largest State Association meeting in the Pacific Region, I witnessed a particularly outstanding nominating committee at work. President Joe Faure did a commendable job of presiding over executive meetings and delegate sessions. During the days that followed, Jay and I were guests of Bob Peterson, California Farm Bureau Young Peoples'

Vice President, in a tour along the state's scenic coastal route, through the giant redwood forests to San Francisco, where we took an eastward turn, toward the snow-capped Sierra Nevada Mountains and Jay's Nevada ranch. Along the way we visited several Future Farmer Chapters, and stopped in Reno, at the University of Nevada to call on Don Travis, former Pacific Regional Vice President, whom I had not seen since the previous summer when we traveled together on the FFA Exchange Program. It was good to arrive at Alamo to spend an enjoyable and restful weekend in Jay's home. I suppose I must admit before one of the other officers tells you, that during an afternoon of riding I was less than gracefully dislodged from my seat on the horse Jay had provided.

Leaving Nevada, I returned to my home state in time to drive to Miami on May 21, where it was my privilege to speak to 12,000 fellow Baptists on the Youth Night Program of the Southern Baptist Convention. June 3, found me addressing delegates and guests of the Florida Association of New Farmers of America at their state meeting in Tallahassee.

Three days later, I packed my suitcase for a trip to Shreveport, Louisiana, site of the FFA convention of that state. Before the meeting officially began, I traveled 100 miles across the state line to Magnolia, Arkansas, where it was a pleasure to observe the final sessions of a good Arkansas Future Farmer Convention. Back in Shreveport, I looked on with pride as the Louisiana FFA members presented a well-balanced program which included recognition of representatives of donors to the Future Farmers of America Foundation. It was obvious that much planning and preparation had been done by Billy Rogers and his fellow state officers, previous to the meeting.

Upon leaving Louisiana, I flew directly to White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, to attend and address the Preliminary Convention of the National Plant Food Institute. June 14, was a big day, because at that time I joined many friends at Daytona Beach, Florida, to participate in the FFA convention of my native state. It was gratifying to see such a capable company of officers headed by President Colin Williamson, in action there. The Future Farmers of Florida added an interesting feature to an already splendid meeting by serving as hosts to the FFA President from six Dixieland states. During the convention sessions, I appeared on the program along with Doyle Conner and Lester Poucher, the two former National Presidents from Florida, to receive a special award from the State Department of Agriculture.

At the Florida Dairy Association Convention held in Clearwater, June 22-24, I was privileged to further acquaint my milk producer and distributor allies with the FFA. The next out-of-state assignment that called, took me to the campus of Mississippi State College for the annual meeting of the Mississippi organization, June 27-30. There I observed a fast-moving parliamentary procedure

contest and a particularly entertaining talent show. President Denton O'Dell and his fellow officers are to be congratulated for a job well done.

On July 14, back in Florida, I retraced my steps to Daytona Beach to present a slide lecture on the Exchange Program and preside over the Tri-State Public Speaking and Quartet Contests held during the summer conference of Vocational Agricultural Teachers.

The largest state meeting in the nation, that of the Texas Association, was scheduled as my final convention visit. Held in the Livestock Coliseum of Houston, July 18-22, this convention included a tremendous Lone Star Farmer Banquet at which thousands attended, and a commendable Public Speaking Contest. President David Risinger and the Texas officers and delegates did a particularly effective job of informing Lone Star State people of the FFA through convention publicity. This account of my visits to each state convention contains only a few of the experiences and impressions that will always remain in my heart. Truly, the most cherished of these experiences were the many friendships established among you fellow members from the various State Associations that make up our great national organization.

From Houston, I flew to Washington, D. C., for the second joint meeting of the Board of Student Officers and Board of Directors, July 25-29. Most of our time was spent in reviewing the applications of American Farmer candidates and planning the national convention program. Also, your officers and advisors enjoyed a dinner and discussion meeting with officials of the American Farm Bureau Federation. At the conclusion of this meeting, Lowell Gisselbeck, Phil Brouillette, and I joined Charlie Anken in his new car for a week's tour of the New England States and a look at their agricultural methods. We enjoyed visiting the home farms and meeting the families of both Phil and Charlie during this trip.

On August 7, Lowell and Charlie dropped me off at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana, where I was honored to serve as co-chairman of the youth sessions of the American Institute of Cooperation summer meeting.

After two days at home, I was once more on the road; this time my destination was Jacksonville, where I met the Florida state officers for a Good-Will Tour of business and industrial establishments of that city, arranged by the Florida Chain Store Council. Appearances at several FFA chapter and civic club meetings completed my activities for the summer.

Registration day for the Fall semester at the University of Florida was September 15. Hardly had I been assigned my courses before it was time to depart for Springfield, Massachusetts, and the Eastern States Exposition. There I joined Phil Brouillette and Charles Anken, and together we assisted in an excellent North

Atlantic Regional Public Speaking Contest and a special recognition program for the 1955 Star State Farmers of that region. I enjoyed the opportunity of being with these fellow FFA members, numbering over 500, from the eleven northeastern states. I was especially proud to present them to the Exposition audience in attendance at the Governors' Night program, September 17.

Following is a brief summary of my activities:

Days spent in interest of FFA.....	228
State conventions attended.....	9
Speeches made	204
Radio and television broadcasts.....	44
Total expenses to FFA (approx.)	\$2,500.00

Words seem so inadequate at this time when I would like to express my gratitude to the many people who helped to make the past year of unbelievable opportunities possible. The first to be thanked are the thousands of members of the Future Farmers of America, for without their support I would not be here today. I will always remember the gracious hospitality extended to me by FFA friends that were visited in 40 states during the year.

To Dr. Spanton, Dr. Tenney, Mr. Naugher, Mr. Hunsicker, Mr. Johnson, and Mr. Farrar, I would like to say that I am sincerely thankful for the understanding and background material provided to assist me in discharging the duties of my office.

I shall always be indebted to Mr. H. E. Wood, my State Advisor, Mr. A. R. Cox, State Executive Secretary, and Mr. B. R. Mills, my Chapter Advisor, for their diligent efforts in my behalf. Seven years ago, Mr. Mills guided me through my first meaningful experiences as a Future Farmer. Since that time, he, Mr. Wood, and Mr. Cox have given me much advice "based on true knowledge and ripened with wisdom."

Jay, Lowell, Bobby, Charlie, and Phil, your warm companionship and unwavering sense of responsibility to the organization you represented this year, have placed you among the finest Future Farmers I have ever known. May our bond of friendship continue to grow and may the best in life always be yours.

To Mom and Dad, who have shared with me all the joys of serving as a national officer, go my heartfelt feelings of love, gratitude, and appreciation. The Christian training you have imparted to me will always be a part of my character. I could never adequately tell what you, my sisters, Merilyn and Harriett, and my grandmother have meant to me.

Finally, I am humbly thankful to the Father in Heaven, that in His great wisdom He saw fit to allow me to serve as your National President. My hope is that I might always live within His will.

Fellow Future Farmers may I remind you that the opportunities of our great organization are yours if you will take advantage

of them. Every chapter meeting you attend, every committee on which you serve, every project you complete, will take you step by step from the Degree of Chapter Farmer to that of State Farmer and finally to the high award of American Farmer. My days as an active member of the FFA will end following this convention. Remember that some day you, too, will be leaving our organization. So, let it mean as much as possible to you now by taking advantage of the opportunities. Set your goals high, then if you don't reach all of them, you still will have gained much from having tried. In my mind, achievement in the FFA is the result of a realization of the opportunities coupled with intelligently directed hard work.

God Bless you all.

Respectfully submitted,

WILLIAM D. GUNTER, JR.

Report of the Pacific Regional Vice President

It was October, 1950, when I first came to Kansas City as a member of a judging team. Here I also attended my first National FFA Convention. I watched with extreme interest the actions of those outstanding leaders of our organization at that time. From that time on I began looking toward the future more than ever before. I was aware of the fact that I had a tremendous long way to go and many improvements to make. I knew for sure I wanted to become a national officer.



JAY WRIGHT
Pacific Vice President

For a period of four years I followed FFA ideals. I tried to rearrange my life in order that I might be a worthy example of a real Future Farmer and the kind of a citizen this organization is trying to produce.

Although this goal seemed so far out of my reach, I never lost sight of it. With the earnest help of my devoted parents and our Father in Heaven this far off objective became real and true at last.

At the close of the convention last year, I returned home and continued with my farming activities.

November 10th, I traveled to Spokane, Washington to fulfill my first assignment as a national officer. It was a most pleasant task to attend the National Grange Convention held in Spokane, where I worked with Wib Justi, Youth Director of the National Grange, and Fred Reed, former National Vice President of the FFA and a

member of the youth committee of the National Grange. After the convention was over I traveled with John Schultheis, another former National Vice President, to his home near Colton, Washington. I had a very splendid visit with his family who are very much aware of the importance of this great organization.

From Washington I returned home to work on the ranch. I was also able to make several appearances around the state.

January 25th, I was in Washington, D. C. working with my fellow officers. January 26-31, we spent in meetings with the Board of Directors. We also visited the Supply Service and Magazine headquarters. From Washington we began our Good-Will Tour. I found this tour very educational and inspiring.

The first state convention I had the privilege to attend was Oregon. This convention was held in Central Point. I assure you this, my first convention, was no disappointment to me. Here I witnessed an outstanding and enjoyable convention, conducted under the very capable leadership of Dan Dunham and his fellow officers.

Leaving this enjoyable state of Oregon and the many enthusiastic Future Farmers, I returned home for only ten days when once again my travels took me to the Utah, Washington and Idaho Conventions.

In Utah, March 25th and 26th, I witnessed an outstanding convention, which was led to a great success by Bob Wilson and his fellow officers. This convention was climaxed with a most colorful Sweetheart Banquet.

From Utah I traveled to Pulman, Washington, where I attended the Washington State Convention. I was only able to attend two days of their executive committee meeting prior to the convention, and two opening days of their convention. I had to leave Washington and the fine Future Farmers there in order to attend the last day and a half of the Idaho Convention held in Nampa. Once again I met a fine group of state officers who conducted a very well organized convention.

From Idaho I returned home only for a short visit, when again I was headed north. This time it was the Montana Convention at Bozeman, Montana. Don Patterson and his fellow officers conducted their inspiring 25th anniversary convention. Their FFA band added a great deal toward making their convention successful.

I left Montana by plane and arrived in Nevada to attend my home state convention which was scheduled in Lovelock. I was able to meet many of my friends and witness a well-rounded meeting, conducted by Bob DeBraga and his fellow officers.

From Lovelock I traveled home with the fellows from my local chapter. Two days later I boarded a plane for Litchfield, Arizona where I attended the Pacific Regional Conference and Public Speaking Contest. I greatly enjoyed myself while in Arizona. I had the opportunity to renew acquaintances with many of my friends from



Upper Left—National FFA Band leads American Royal Parade, Top Center—District V Minnesota Swing Band, Upper Right—Scene from Patriotism and the FFA, Center—Scene from Patriotism and the FFA, Lower Right—Scene from Patriotism and the FFA



Lower Left—Eddie Fisher with National FFA Chorus, Lower Center—Plant City, Florida String Band, Lower Right—Scene from Patriotism and the FFA.

the different states. I was also able to know more about the problems facing the various associations.

Returning home from the Regional Conference and a long string of State conventions, I found it was round-up time in Nevada again and I spent the next week of my time working with our cattle on the range.

May 7th, I met Bill Gunter in Las Vegas. From Las Vegas we traveled to San Luis Obispo, California, where we attended an outstanding convention held on the College Campus. Following our visit in California we drove to my home in Nevada, visiting a few chapters along the way. I had the pleasure of having Bill visit my home for two days. I wish his visit could have been a longer one.

Upon my return from California I had no trouble finding work at home until June 6, 7, and 8, when my duties as a national officer called me to Rocky Ford, Colorado, to attend the Colorado convention. Vernon Cardwell and his co-workers did a magnificent job of conducting a highly colorful convention. Leaving Colorado I returned home and resumed my duties on the ranch.

July 25th to 29th I enjoyed meeting once again with my fellow officers and members of the Board of Directors in our joint meeting in Washington, D. C.

Upon my return trip home from Washington, D. C., I attended the New Mexico State Convention under the capable leadership of Lawrence Widner. Every one enjoyed a well-conducted convention.

August 11-19, I spent in the state of Arizona. Prior to the beginning of their convention, I made several radio and TV appearances. In Prescott, Arizona where the convention was held, I marveled at the extremely colorful convention and one that was organized to the last detail. While attending this convention I participated in a Sweetheart Ball I am sure I will never forget.

My travels to the state conventions had come to a close. Only one engagement remained and that was to fulfill my duties here in Kansas City, which I am striving to do to the best of my ability. I was greatly impressed with my visits to all of the state conventions. I find they are carrying with them a very progressive attitude. The Future Farmers in the various states that I have visited, are the highest caliber of young men we have in America. I have been extremely proud to be their National Vice President. I am sure I can see nothing but a progressive future ahead of Future Farmers of America if we will continue to live to serve.

The following is a summary of my year's activities:

Speeches made	71
Days spent in interest of FFA.....	138
Radio and TV broadcasts.....	13
State conventions attended.....	10
State conventions assigned.....	9
Total expenses to FFA (approx.).....	\$1,850.00

I have many people I would like to thank on this day. Time will not permit me to name them all; however, I would like to name a few.

I have had several agriculture teachers during my FFA career. My sincere thanks, however, go to Mr. Boyd Morris who helped me throughout my high school days and encouraged me a great deal to strive to achieve this office.

To Mr. John Buntin, my State Advisor, all I can say is many thanks for something I can probably never repay. Your guidance and friendliness has made it possible for me to reach this end.

Dr. Spanton, Dr. Tenney, Mr. Farrar and each member of the Washington staff, you have all been a tremendous help in assisting me to carry out the duties of this office.

To my fellow officers, Bill, Lowell, Charlie, Phil and Bob—words cannot express the admiration I have for you fellows. I will never forget the many pleasant hours we have spent together. May the future hold only the best for each of you.

To Mother and Father and my brother, Kay, the most chosen words the dictionary has to offer cannot express my appreciation to you for the many sacrifices you have made, for the heavy load you have been so willing to bear, while I have been away from home discharging the duties of this office. I am extremely proud of you and I only hope you can be as proud of me as I am of you.

Future Farmers this past year I have tried to the best of my ability to live by those ideals and principles typical of a Future Farmer. I can definitely say the FFA has played an important part in shaping and developing my life. This past year has left my mind full of fond memories.

Most of all, I must say thanks to you, each and every Future Farmer for giving me this opportunity.

On Thursday afternoon we the old officers will turn the reins of this organization over to a new set of national officers, who will do equally as good if not a better job than we have done. May all of you as members of this, the greatest farm boy organization in the world today, strive to make it as proud of you as you are of it.

It is my wish that God will bless each of you and the FFA.

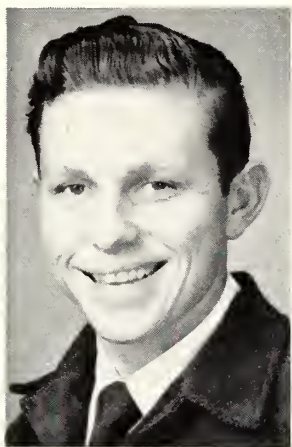
Respectfully submitted,

JAY WRIGHT

Report of the Southern Regional Vice President

Today it is one of my duties and pleasures to report back to you, my fellow FFA members on my part in the work of our great organization during the past year. Many things have happened since

the time of our last meeting here in Kansas City. Yes, many wonderful things that have seen our organization grow in every respect. I am sure that I will never forget my year as your Southern Regional Vice President.



ROBERT H. FUTRELLE
Southern Vice President

After my election last year I flew back to my home in North Carolina. The months of October, November and December were spent in working around the farm, between engagements to speak on different occasions. I was pleased to meet many friends of our organization and to learn that they are vigorous in their support of the FFA.

January found your other national officers and myself traveling to Washington to hold our first board meeting of the year. This was held jointly with the meeting of the National Board of Directors, and I'm sure that everyone concerned will agree with me in saying that the meeting was a very successful and harmonious one in which much was accomplished.

After this meeting we held our officer training period in the national office. This was most ably accomplished with the help of our National Executive Secretary, Dr. Tenney.

Drs. Spanton and Tenney then accompanied us on the most exciting and memorable national Good-Will Tour. Bill Gunter has already told you of this trip in detail.

The time between the end of our tour and my first convention was again spent in traveling to local FFA chapters and civic organizations to talk with them concerning our organization. Then, on May 11, I traveled to the beautiful and historic state of Tennessee to observe a well-conducted convention of the Tennessee Association. Emmett Barker and his fellow officers did a magnificent job in every detail. An outstanding feature of this convention was the demonstrations that were presented by the different local chapters concerning parliamentary procedure, programs of work, and the different methods to promote FFA Week.

June 1-3, found me in the city of Louisville, Kentucky to meet the fine Future Farmers of that State. I would like to say that each good thing that has been said about the hospitality that is shown in the Bluegrass State is true. President Jerry Ringo is one of the most capable young men of our organization and much is to be said for the able way that he and his fellow workers conducted that convention. The business was carried on in a most efficient way and the whole convention was a huge success.

After the close of the Kentucky convention, I took a plane to the town of Magnolia, Arkansas, for the State rally of Future

Farmers there. Jerry Moss conducted a very smooth convention of which one of the outstanding things was the talent displayed. I'm sure that everyone at the convention will agree with me when I say that if there is a musical instrument that Wendell Phillips, State Reporter, cannot play he just hasn't seen it yet.

At the Arkansas convention, I was pleased to see again our national president, Bill Gunter, who visited us one night. The next day was the last day of the convention so after the adjourning gavel, I traveled with Bill to Louisiana where I was able to see some of the members at that convention before leaving for Auburn, Alabama.

In Auburn, I was greeted by a very enthusiastic group of FFA members. There also I participated in one of the finest award programs of my tour. One of the things that impressed me at this convention, was the promptness of beginning the business sessions. President Garland Bond and his fellow officers certainly did a bang-up job conducting the meetings.

Leaving Auburn with many fond memories, I journeyed back home to be with my wife and folks before resuming my convention tour.

On the morning of July 12, I was greeted at Clemson College in Clemson, South Carolina, by the ever friendly Jackie Marsh who was President of that Association. Three wonderful days were spent there on the campus in which I was able to renew many old acquaintances and establish new ones. The convention was a success in every sense of the word and was highlighted by the excellent awards' program and the annual picnic trip to Oconee State Park. There also, I had the pleasure of viewing a most beautiful State Sweetheart Pageant. Many thanks for the swell hospitality of my own sister state, South Carolina.

At Virginia Polytechnic Institute was held a very successful convention surrounded by an FFA atmosphere dating back to the founding of our organization. David Miller, assisted efficiently by his other officers, did a magnificent job with his presidential duties. After the convention we had the opportunity to look over some of the beautiful farm land of Virginia and also some of the historic sites.

A feeling of nostalgia became a part of me as I watched Billy Whitaker, North Carolina State President, sound the beginning gavel of my home state and last convention, for it had only been one year since I too had experienced the pleasure of the State presidency. In North Carolina for the first time we were proud to have an organized State Band and an excellent job was done by this group.

The Governor of our State, Honorable Luther Hodges, was the guest speaker at the convention and his talk along FFA lines was most impressive.

The time between the last of the North Carolina convention and the present was spent in traveling to different chapters for workshops, talks and speaking engagements. In July I was sorry I was unable to attend the Georgia State Convention because of a conflict with the meeting of the Board of Student Officers and Board of Directors, but from what I have heard from that association, a wonderful convention was held.

In concluding my report to you, there are some people whom I would like to think of at this time. These people have all been influential in the way my life has shaped up thus far and I owe them many thanks. First of all, I would like to say to my wife, Sally, thank you for all the help you have given me this past year. You have spent many hours typing all my letters and keeping things together while I was away.

I also thank my father and mother who have, along with Sally, given much of their time and other resources to make possible my work in FFA.

To Mr. Peeler, my State Executive Secretary, and Mr. Teachey, my State Advisor, goes my heartfelt appreciation. You have helped to make the path clearer for me as I went along my way.

I think that most of you Future Farmers understand the extreme difficulty I face at this point in my talk; for it is now that I shall try to thank the agriculture teachers who have been instrumental in leading me. To Mr. J. B. Boone and Mr. Robert Sanderson go my heartfelt thanks for the assistance that they have rendered to me. Mr. O. J. Gaylord and Mr. J. E. MacIntyre—your help and integrity, honesty, and ability as each of you have. May each day of your lives be blessed with fruitfulness and may they be as rewarding as the days of this past year.

Well, Charlie, Phil, Bill, Lowell, and Jay, the time is speedily approaching when we shall say a fond so long to each other. May I say to each of you; I have never met anyone with so much loyalty, integrity, honesty, and ability as each of you have. May each day of our lives be blessed with fruitfulness and may they be as rewarding as the days of this past year.

To each Future Farmer who is here present, may I extend to you my warmest appreciation for the faith you showed in electing me to a National office. I hope that I have done an acceptable job and that I may still continue as a booster of the FFA in the future.

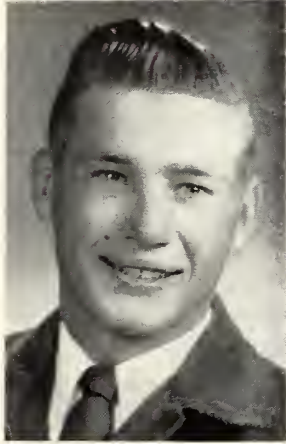
Respectfully submitted,

ROBERT H. FUTRELLE

Report of the Central Regional Vice President

It was but seven years ago when I, a scared little freshman, sat down in a vocational agriculture class on the first day of high school. A few days later I attended my first FFA meeting. Little did

I realize the many opportunities that lay before me as I watched the chapter officers carry on that meeting. It was then that I set my goal to become a chapter officer. After attending a state convention, I soon realized there were even greater advancements to achieve.



LOWELL GISSELBECK
Central Vice President

Three years ago I first witnessed the vastness of this great organization by attending my first national convention. Last year after receiving my American Farmer Degree and later being elected as a national officer, I had reached the final goal of my FFA activities. Last February, as we visited with President Eisenhower in his White House office, I thought back to my first day in high school. Little did I dream as a freshman this would ever be possible. If we as Future Farmers will meet the challenges as they come before us, we will reach heights far beyond our expectations.

Upon returning home for the 1954 convention, I resumed my farming activities. During the three months following the convention, I attended a number of chapter banquets and spoke at several civic and Farmers' Union meetings.

On January 24, I boarded a plane and headed for Washington, D. C., where I joined the other national officers for our mid-winter meeting. The four weeks following were ones of real enjoyment. When I returned home on February 24, I found South Dakota buried under two feet of snow. I was only home two days trying to work off the excess weight I had accumulated before I was into Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska and across South Dakota speaking at more banquets.

Two days after the Parent-and-Son Banquet of my home chapter, Watertown, I left for Chicago to attend the Central Regional Conference of Vocational Agriculture Supervisors and Teacher Trainers. This conference gave me a much better understanding of the procedures and problems of the men who give us, as Future Farmers, our much needed help and assistance.

After attending a few more banquets, I left for Cody, Wyoming on March 23. After two days and 980 miles of driving I was welcomed by some five hundred wonderful active Future Farmers of Wyoming who carried on an outstanding convention in the home town of Buffalo Bill.

I returned home long enough to get my clothes washed and ironed before my wife and I left for the Nebraska State Convention. On March 31, Charles Trumble called the 27th State Convention to order. Three days later after seeing outstanding leadership and a fine judging contest, we left for home, having made many new friends in Nebraska.

Iowa was the next State Convention my wife and I attended. It was called to order on April 21, by President Howard Linder. He

along with the other State Officers of the Iowa Association are to be commended on their fine leadership. I certainly enjoyed the FFA parade through the city streets of Council Bluffs.

Two days later I was back in South Dakota attending the convention of my home state. Herman Felstehausen and his fellow officers did an outstanding job carrying on the business.

May 9, my wife and I drove to Minneapolis to attend the Minnesota Silver Anniversary Convention. This convention was highlighted by a fine Silver Anniversary Pageant and a movie of the entire three-day convention.

June 2, 3, and 4 found my wife and I at Green Lake, Wisconsin. The boys of the Dairy State are to be commended on the fine job they did carrying on their convention.

After being home only a few days I left for Fargo for the North Dakota State Convention. Being there three days, I was convinced the people of North Dakota knew of the Future Farmers of America, because these boys had done a great deal in the way of publicizing their State Convention through TV, radio and newspapers.

On July 25, I flew to Washington for our mid-summer meeting. At the conclusion of this meeting, Billy, Charlie, Phil and I drove through the New England States and up to Vermont where we stopped at Phil's farm for two days. We then stopped at Charlie's farm in New York for two days before driving on to Purdue where we left Billy for the A.I.C. meeting. I returned home for a week to help with the last of the harvest before Charlie and I headed for Lansing, Michigan, where I presided over the Regional Public Speaking Contest.

During the fall months I attended several leadership schools in Minnesota and South Dakota. On October 1, I left for Waterloo, Iowa, to attend the National Dairy Cattle Congress. I had the privilege of acting as toastmaster at the FFA Banquet. I left Waterloo on October 5, to come to Kansas City to assist with the national convention.

The following is a summary of my activities as a national officer:

Days spent in interest of FFA.....	110
Speeches made	77
State conventions attended.....	7
Radio and television broadcasts.....	14
Total expenses to FFA (approx.).....	\$1,550.00

I find it hard to put into words the thanks I owe to so many people who have helped me make this year a success. I would like to say thanks to Dr. Spanton, Dr. Tenney and to everyone in the national office for the many, many things they did for me this past year.

To Mr. Urton, my State Supervisor, I would like to say thanks for the leadership training and much needed advice he has given me through the past several years of my FFA work.

Thanks to Mr. Hall, my local chapter advisor, who started me on the right road and advised me as I accepted my responsibilities in the FFA.

To Charlie, Billy, Jay, Phil and Bob, I shall always treasure the times we've had working together.

To Mom and Dad, my brothers Loren and Dick and sister Diann, I shall never be able to repay you for the work you did and the help you've given me while I've been away.

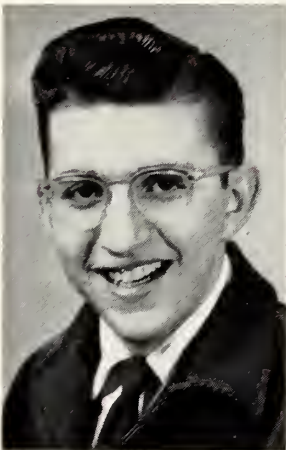
I shall ever be grateful for the love and encouragement my wife, Helen, has given me this past year. I only hope that the FFA holds up its high ideals and purposes and that some day our children may belong to the Future Farmers of America.

Respectfully submitted,

LOWELL GISSELBECK

Report of the North Atlantic Regional Vice President

On October 13, 1954, as Walker James escorted me to my station little did I realize the greatest year of my life was ahead. As I look back on that day, the many experiences and opportunities I have had unfold before me.



CHARLES W. ANKEN
*North Atlantic
Vice President*

The following is a brief report of my activities during the past year.

At the conclusion of our 27th convention, it was my pleasure to participate in the American Royal Parade. The remainder of October found me attending Parent-and-Son Banquets, civic group meetings and making radio appearances.

November found me journeying to Washington, D. C., to represent the FFA at the meeting of the National Federation of Milk Producers.

After arriving home my duties were confined to speaking engagements within New York State.

In January I again traveled to Washington for the first of a series of three Board of Directors and Board of Student Officers meetings. Immediately following this meeting we spent a memorable three weeks on our annual Good-Will Tour. Upon returning home I had

the opportunity to attend the New York State F.H.A. Convention in Plattsburg, and was much impressed with their meeting.

During March I attended the New York State Rural Youth Conference at Watkins Glen and later participated in "The Farm Forum of the Air."

My first convention was drawing near and it was certainly a thrill to visit Purdue University, March 31-April 2, to attend the 27th annual convention of the Indiana Association. Charlie Jackson and his fellow officers did a tremendous job conducting their fine convention.

April 12th found me in New York City attending the North Atlantic Regional Conference.

Later in April I flew to Wilmington, Delaware, to attend the annual convention of the Future Farmers of Delaware. I enjoyed my association with Dick James who was at the helm.

May found me attending the New York State Convention in Baldwinsville. I was much impressed with the very fine band and chorus. Leon Smith and his fellow officers are to be commended for a job well done.

On June 1, I departed from home to attend a series of conventions that would last throughout the month of June. Neil Milner and his officers impressed and inspired me while conducting their Ohio Convention at Ohio State University. I then journeyed back to New York State to attend a Dairy Cattle Judging Conference. I then traveled back to Ohio where Past State President Dale Ring, joined me to attend the Illinois State Convention held at Springfield. Jon Ball, acting president and his fellow officers handled a large, well-organized convention. Then, I spent a very enjoyable weekend at Dale's home, after a visit to Wayne Drake's farm, newly elected Indiana State President. We also visited Larry Earhart, newly elected Ohio State President. I then headed on to New Jersey where Roger Locandro and his fellow officers conducted their convention at the beautiful scenic Camp Pahaquarra. This convention was highlighted by the extensive well-conducted Public Speaking Contest.

I then spent an evening at the home of Paul Cooper, Past State President of the New Jersey Association, before attending my seventh convention at the University of Maryland. Here I was much impressed by the interest and enthusiasm of the boys and the fine way Bill Murrow conducted their affairs.

The forepart of July found me doing farm work for a change. On July 20th I visited the beautiful State of West Virginia but was able to attend only part of their well-run State Convention, which was ably guided by Allan Colebank. I left the West Virginia Convention to go to Washington to attend the annual July meeting of the National Board of Directors and Board of Student Officers. As I traveled to Washington I realized I had attended my last State FFA Convention. I could not help but realize one of the things we held vital in our organization, that of leadership training, was

certainly paying off as the conventions I attended were conducted in fine order and served as an inspiration to me and to all those attending.

Immediately following our Washington meeting, Bill, Phil, Lowell and I journeyed up the North Atlantic Seacoast to Vermont where we had a most enjoyable stay with Phil and his folks. After leaving Phil off and stopping at my home we headed for South Dakota. I'll long remember a fine stay with Lowell Gisselbeck and his charming wife, Helen.

En route home it was my privilege to stop off at Lansing, Michigan and renew acquaintances at the Regional Public Speaking Contest.

The first week in September found me in Syracuse, at the New York State Fair participating in various events.

September 16, I flew to Springfield, Massachusetts to attend the Eastern States Exposition. I served as chairman of the Regional FFA Public Speaking Contest and presented special awards. I was delighted to work with Phil Brouillette and Bill Gunter at this important meeting.

Since that meeting I have attended meetings, appeared on radio broadcasts, took part in a series of FFA school fairs, where on some occasions, it was my privilege to serve as Dairy Cattle Judge.

The following is a summary of my activities as a national officer:

Days spent in interest of FFA.....	131
Speeches made	143
Conventions attended	8
Radio and TV.....	23
Total Expenses to the FFA (approx.).....	\$1,500.00

There are many people that I am deeply indebted to for their guidance, inspiration and constant interest.

To Mr. R. C. S. Sutliff, my State Advisor; Dr. J. W. Hatch; Mr. J. O. Sanders; Mr. E. Lattimer and other staff members who along with Mr. F. E. Farquhar, my local advisor whose training and patience through my years as a Future Farmer have made these experiences possible, I say thanks.

I would like to express my appreciation to Dr. Tenney, Dr. Spanton, Mr. Hunsicker, and everyone in the national office for their tireless effort in our behalf.

Working with Bill, Jay, Lowell, Phil and Bob is one thing that has made this year so enjoyable. I shall always remember the good times we had together.

And, I wish to say thanks to mom and dad. Their sacrifice, love, understanding, and encouragement have been of great help to me while serving as a national officer.

So, as we approach a new year in the FFA, let us be thankful for the progress that has been made and look to the future with

hope and determination to be not only better farmers but farm leaders; to assume our duties as responsible rural citizens, to go out and help make our country and community better because we live in it.

May God bless each of you and may His guiding hand continue to remain with the Future Farmers of America.

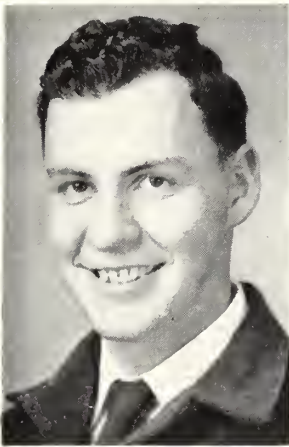
Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES W. ANKEN

Report of the National Student Secretary

Fellow Future Farmers, as I look back over my past seven years of active membership with the Future Farmers of America, I cannot find words to express what the organization has done for me.

It was after I attended my first National Convention in 1950 that I set my goal—that some day I would serve you as a national officer. Last October when I achieved that goal, and was elected to serve as National Student Secretary, it was the happiest moment in my life. Although much work was in store for me, the many thrills and enjoyment of working with you during the past year will never be forgotten. I have tried to serve you to the best of my ability.



L. PHILIP BROUILLETTE
Student Secretary

My duties as a national officer started on January 25th, when I flew to Washington, D. C. to attend my first Board meeting. On February 2nd, I started on the Annual Good-Will Tour along with the other national officers. One month later found me home working on the farm and visiting several local chapters.

On the morning of April 1, I left my home and drove out to my first State convention, which was held at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. This was a two-day convention and I thought that much initiative was shown by the Future Farmers there.

My next convention, June 14-16, took me to the University of Pennsylvania at State College, Pennsylvania, where I witnessed a very enjoyable three-day convention. This convention was very well conducted by Jerry Fuhrman. Their State chorus and band was very impressive. This was my largest convention. Their mass meeting with the Future Homemakers of America added much color to the program.

On June 29-30 I flew to my third State convention at the University of Maine. I had the privilege of presenting the Star State Farmer.

Following this convention, I returned home to help with haying since there was much hay down.

On the evening of July 17th, I boarded a sleeper and traveled to Storrs, Connecticut, where I attended another very well conducted convention. I was impressed by the enthusiasm shown by the members and leaders during their two-day convention. I was honored to present the National FFA Foundation Awards at their 23rd annual convention banquet.

Immediately after returning home from Connecticut, I left to attend the New Hampshire State Convention at Colebrook. I had the privilege of presiding over their Public Speaking Contest. I also enjoyed their awards banquet.

On July 25th, I flew to Washington, D. C., where I attended the mid-summer Board meeting. It gave me a chance to talk over and compare notes on the State conventions we had attended. On my way back home I traveled through the New England States with Bill, Charlie and Lowell on a short tour.

My last convention was my own State convention held in Randolph, Vermont, August 10-12. This was a very well-conducted meeting by Paul Daniels. I also had the privilege of presiding over the Public Speaking Contest.

On September 16-17, I drove to the Eastern States Exposition at Springfield, Massachusetts. Bill and Charlie were also there. I was honored to act as toastmaster at the North Atlantic Regional Awards Banquet. I also took part in the presentation of the Regional Star State Farmer Ceremony.

Looking back over the conventions which I attended, I found that all the Future Farmers were outstanding in many ways.

The following is an approximate summary of my activities:

Days spent in interest of FFA.....	94
Speeches made	76
Radio and TV.....	6
Conventions attended	6
Expenses to the FFA.....	\$1,000.00

Today marks the end of the many joys and educational values which I have received from the Future Farmers of America. We should be grateful to all the people who make it possible for us to achieve these many goals.

It has been an inspiration for me to associate and work with Dr. Spanton, Dr. Tenney, Mr. Farrar, Mr. Hunsicker and all the other members of the Washington staff. We can be proud to have such leaders as you.

To my agricultural teachers, Mr. Pierce and Mr. Bartlett go many thanks for their efforts and guidance they have given me along the way.

To Mr. Watson, my State Advisor and his staff my gratitude and appreciation for making this dream come true.

To my parents, brother Mark, and sisters, my sincere thanks and appreciation for all they have done for me to make this year possible. Without their help and sacrifices, I could not have served as a national officer.

To my fellow national officers, Bill, Charlie, Bob, Lowell and Jay, I will always remember the close cooperation and friendship which we have had.

Future Farmers, "As we mingle with others, let us be diligent in labor, just in our dealings, courteous to everyone, and, above all, honest and fair in the game of life."

May God bless each and every one of you.

Respectfully submitted,

L. PHILIP BROUILLETTE

Report of National Executive Secretary

A. W. Tenney

Each year we pause at our National FFA Convention to review briefly the record of accomplishments of our organization. We are holding our 28th National Convention. We are all proud of the new records that are being set by our members. Our membership has continued to increase and our accomplishments continue to be very satisfactory. Let's not forget that the progress made during the past year is due to the excellent work done by FFA members, teachers of vocational agriculture, State staffs in agricultural education and the members of the Agricultural Education Branch of the Office of Education. We recognize the helpful assistance that has been given to the Future Farmers of America by our many friends in other organizations and from the field of business and industry.

The following report on accomplishments of the Future Farmers of America is for the year ended June 30, 1955.

Report on Accomplishments

Item	Goal	Accomplishment
I. SUPERVISED FARMING		
1. Producing food and other farm products	100% of members having a comprehensive farming program consisting of two or more productive enterprises	68%
2. Improving livestock and crop production	100% member participation	65% livestock 54% crop
3. Preventing livestock losses	100% chapter participation	89%
II. COOPERATION		
1. Providing experience in cooperative effort	100% member participation	70%
2. Cooperate with other groups	100% chapter participation	89%
III. COMMUNITY SERVICE		
1. Stress reconditioning of farm machinery and equipment	100% member and chapter participation	45% member 78% chapter
2. Guarding and protecting life and property	100% of States and Chapters with safety program	84% States 56% chapters
3. Conserving resources	100% member and chapter participation	46% member 72% chapter
4. Maintaining farm buildings and equipment	100% member participation	46%

Item	Goal	Accomplishment
IV. LEADERSHIP		
1. Advancing members to higher degrees	100% of States naming full quota of qualified American Farmer applicants	94%
2. Chapter library	100% of chapter with libraries which include 5 or more FFA books	86%
3. Public Speaking	100% of States and chapters holding Public Speaking Contests	100% States 51% chapters
4. Parliamentary Procedure	100% of chapters conduct meetings according to accepted parliamentary procedure	93%
5. Programs of Work	100% of States and Chapters having a written program of work	100% States 85% chapters
6. Leadership training	100% States holding leadership training schools or conferences for chapter officers and members	90% States 64% chapters participate 12% members participate
7. Public Relations	Keep the public informed on what the FFA is and does	88% States issued State paper, periodical or news sheet 34% chapters issued news sheets or news letters 68% chapters prepared publicity material 54% States sponsored radio series 38% chapters prepared and gave radio broadcasts 28% States sponsored television series 16% chapters prepared and gave television programs
9. National FFA Week	100% chapter participation	68%
V. EARNINGS AND SAVINGS		
1. Thrift	100% chapters prepared a budget	78%
2. Earning money for the local chapter	100% of chapters earn enough money to finance chapter activities	78%
VI. CONDUCT OF MEETINGS		
1. Official Manual	100% members having access to Official Manual	86%

Item	Goal	Accomplishment
2. Using Official Secretary and Treasurer Books	100% chapters using both books	80% secretary's 77% treasurer's
3. Official meeting paraphernalia, equipment, and supplies	100% States and chapters possessing full meeting equipment as listed in Manual	98% States 82% chapters
4. Official ceremonies	100% chapters using official opening and closing, and degree ceremonies for regular meetings	90%
5. State conventions	100% States hold convention	100%
6. Meetings	Every member attend 100% chapter meetings	88% chapters held regular meetings 51% members attended

VII. SCHOLARSHIP

1. Improving scholarship	100% of members to attain a satisfactory scholarship record	84% chapters stimulated members to improve their scholarship
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VIII. RECREATION

1. Supervised Recreation	100% member participation	84% chapters provided supervised recreation 68% members participated
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IX. GENERAL

1. Membership	Every eligible boy a member	383,219 members
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OFFICER TRAVEL

Your national student officers have kept very busy working for you during the current year. They have rendered outstanding service to the organization without pay. It is true that their travel expenses are paid by the organization. It has been my privilege to observe them in action as they have worked for you during the year. I know you will be thrilled during the convention to hear their reports.

STATE CONVENTIONS

Each State Association held a convention during the past year. Forty-six of these State conventions were attended by a National FFA Officer. The reports on these conventions indicate good attendance and high interest. State FFA Conventions continue to give sound leadership to local FFA chapters and members.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

During the past year 45 State Associations held special leadership schools for local chapters and members. A total of 5,691 chapters took part in these schools. We are glad that most of our State Asso-

ciations are providing sound training in leadership for chapter officers and members.

CAMP AND OLD MILL

The facilities at the National FFA Camp are being used by the staff of the Future Farmers Supply Service and by the staff of *The National FUTURE FARMER*. Since the Potomac Park Motor Court in Washington, D. C. has facilities to accommodate FFA chapters, the national camp was not open during the past summer.

The George Washington Grist Mill, which is leased from the Virginia Conservation Commission, is still being kept open to the public. A caretaker is kept on duty. The income from the Mill is enough to pay for all of the expenses, maintenance, and the salary of the caretaker.

For many years State Associations have conducted camps for members. During the past year 20 associations operated camps. A few other associations are in the process of developing camps. These camps are used for both instruction and recreation.

NATIONAL CHAPTER AWARD PROGRAM

We have just completed a review of the applications submitted by chapters in the National Chapter Award Program. You will recall that the convention a year ago authorized that the old National Chapter Contest be discontinued and that the new National Chapter Award Program be substituted for the old contest. I am pleased to report that we have received 115 applications for national awards. This is the largest number that we have ever received. A review of the reports submitted indicates that FFA chapters are conducting outstanding programs. Later during the convention awards will be presented to many of our outstanding chapters.

Let's not forget that our Chapter Award Program is still in the developmental stage. Let's work together in making this a program that will help to improve FFA work throughout the nation.

PRIZES AND AWARDS

We are pleased it has been possible to continue the award program, which has been financed from funds provided by the Future Farmers of America Foundation. The Foundation is supported annually by grants by many friends of the FFA. We are all looking forward to having as platform guests representatives of donors to the Foundation. These guests will be presented to you during the Wednesday evening session.

FUTURE FARMERS SUPPLY SERVICE

You will hear later this week a report on the Future Farmers Supply Service. You are doubtless familiar with the booth provided for your convenience here at the convention by the Supply Service.

If you have any questions about the Supply Service, or items sold by it I hope you will discuss these with Mr. Harry Andrews, who is at the Supply Service booth. The Supply Service had another very successful year. A few new items have been added at your request.

THE NATIONAL FUTURE FARMER

We are pleased with the progress being made in connection with the publication of *The National FUTURE FARMER Magazine*. We are glad that for the first time six issues of the magazine will be printed and distributed this year. We hope eventually each member of the FFA may receive the official magazine. You will be given a complete progress report on the magazine later during the convention by Mr. Lano Barron, the editor.

SUMMARY

The summary of work done by various State associations for the year ended June 30, 1955, based on information obtained from their annual reports is as follows:

A. ORGANIZATION

Total number chartered active local chapters.....	8,868
Total number white departments of vocational agriculture without FFA chapters.....	143
Total active membership in chartered chapters.....	383,219

B. MEMBERSHIP DISTRIBUTION AND STATUS

Total number of active members now holding Green Hand Degree	167,079
Total number of active members now holding Chapter Farmer Degree	203,105
Total number of active members now holding State Farmer Degree	12,303
Total number of active members now holding American Farmer Degree.....	732
Total active membership.....	383,219
Total number of Honorary Chapter Farmers.....	60,661
Total number of Honorary State Farmers.....	11,704
Total number of Honorary American Farmers.....	459
Grand total membership.....	456,043

I. SUPERVISED FARMING

Number of members who have a comprehensive farming program consisting of two or more productive enterprises	262,577
Number of members who received awards for outstanding achievement in supervised farming.....	42,341
Number of members who used improved livestock practices	248,623
Number of members who used improved crop production practices	206,726

Number of chapters engaging in organized livestock loss prevention work.....	7,920
II. COOPERATION	
Number of chapters cooperating with other groups....	7,880
Number of members provided experience in cooperative effort	269,622
III. COMMUNITY SERVICE	
Number of members who repaired and/or reconditioned farm machinery.....	171,206
Number of chapters that repaired and/or reconditioned farm machinery.....	6,915
Number of State Associations having a safety program in operation.....	42
Number of chapters that conducted a safety campaign	4,884
Number of members engaged in organized conservation work	177,235
Number of chapters engaging in organized conservation work	6,376
Number of members who repaired farm buildings and/or equipment	176,976
IV. LEADERSHIP	
Number of State Associations that nominated full quota of American Farmers.....	47
Number of chapters having libraries with 5 or more FFA books	7,589
Number of State Associations holding a public speaking contest.....	50
Number of chapters holding a public speaking contest	4,502
Number of chapters using accepted form of parliamentary procedure in conducting chapter meetings....	8,287
Number of State Associations having a written continuing program of work.....	50
Number of chapters having definite continuing written program of work.....	7,552
Number of State Associations putting out a State paper, periodical, or news sheets regularly.....	44
Number of chapters issuing news sheets or news letters	2,995
Number of chapters preparing publicity material regularly	6,046
Number of State Associations providing leadership training schools or conferences for local chapter officers and members.....	45
Number of chapters participating in leadership training schools or conferences.....	5,691
Number of members participating in leadership training schools or conferences.....	46,277

Number of State Associations sponsoring radio broadcast series	27
Number of State Associations sponsoring television series	14
Number of chapters that have prepared and given one or more television programs.....	1,416
Number of chapters that have prepared and given one or more radio programs.....	3,339
Number of Association members attending last National FFA Convention.....	11,899
Number of State Associations participating in National FFA Week.....	48
Number of chapters that participated in National FFA Week	6,063

V. EARNINGS AND SAVINGS

Number of chapters that prepared a budget.....	6,895
Number of chapters that earned enough money to finance chapter activities.....	6,876

VI. CONDUCT OF MEETINGS

Number of members who have access to the latest revised Official Manual.....	330,927
Number of chapters using official secretary's book.....	7,136
Number of chapters using official treasurer's book.....	6,863
Number of chapters possessing full meeting equipment as listed in the Manual.....	7,309
Number of State Associations possessing full meeting equipment as listed in the Manual.....	49
Number of chapters using the official opening and closing, and degree ceremonies for regular meetings	8,025
Number of chapters holding regular meetings.....	7,830
Number of State Associations holding a convention....	50
Number of members who have attended 100% of chapter meetings	181,579

VII. SCHOLARSHIP

Number of chapters that stimulated members to improve their scholarship.....	7,419
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VIII. RECREATION

Number of chapters that provided supervised recreation	7,428
Number of members who participated in supervised recreation activities	261,621
Number of State Associations having a State camp in operation during the year.....	20

Number of members attending State camps.....	20,509
Number of chapters represented.....	2,064

C. INVESTMENTS IN FARMING

Total amount actually invested in farming by active members as of January 1 of this year.....	\$88,160,473.95
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D. COLLEGIATE CHAPTERS

Number of recognized teacher-training departments operating Collegiate FFA Chapters.....	28
Reported membership in Collegiate Chapters.....	1,620

WE LOOK TO THE FUTURE

It is stimulating to look back and review our past accomplishments. It is likewise interesting and profitable to look to the future. As we look back we recognize that we have attained a new record in membership. We now have 383,219 members. We predict another new record will be established during the current year. Let's strive to enroll all boys who are studying vocational agriculture in high school. We should also encourage many other boys who are eligible to continue their membership in the FFA after they have completed high school.

In closing, I wish to compliment each of you for the good work you have been doing. I also wish to express my appreciation to the national officers for their cooperation and assistance. We have received invaluable assistance from the National Board of Directors, State Advisors and Executive Secretaries, and from our office force.

Report of the National Treasurer

July 15, 1955

Officers and Directors,
Future Farmers of America,
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

We have made an examination of the books of account and record of Dowell J. Howard, Treasurer, Future Farmers of America, Richmond, Virginia, for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1955, and submit herewith our report, consisting of the statements listed in the foregoing index together with our comments thereon. Our examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, and accordingly included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

In our opinion, the accompanying balance sheet and statement of revenue and expenditures present fairly the financial position of Future Farmers of America at June 30, 1955, and the results of its operations for the fiscal year then ended, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

Respectfully submitted,

LEACH, CALKINS & SCOTT
Certified Public Accountants

By: J. A. LEACH, JR., C. P. A.
Member of Firm

Financial Position

The assets and liabilities of the organization at June 30, 1955, are shown in detail in the Balance Sheet, Exhibit "A". A summary showing a comparison of the financial position of the organization at June 30, 1955, with that of June 30, 1954, follows.

ASSETS:	June 30, 1955	June 30, 1954	Increase (Decrease)
Cash	\$ 37,257.53	\$ 24,675.77	\$ 12,581.76
Investments	48,845.50	47,440.00	1,405.50
Loan receivable	44,500.00	44,500.00	—
Trademark	500.00	500.00	—
Fixed Assets	31,980.13	31,980.13	—
TOTAL ASSETS	\$163,083.16	\$149,095.90	\$ 13,987.26
LIABILITIES:			
Loan Payable	—	17,500.00	(17,500.00)
SURPLUS	\$163,083.16	\$131,595.90	\$ 31,487.26

Revenue and Expenditures

Operations of the organization for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1955, resulted in an excess of revenue over expenditures of \$13,987.26. A statement of revenue and expenditures for the year is presented in detail in Exhibit "B", a summary of which follows.

REVENUE:			
Membership dues		\$38,321.90	
Royalties		24,446.63	
Old Mill		2,000.00	
Future Farmers Supply Service:			
Rent	\$1,500.00		
Grant	7,500.00	9,000.00	
Interest on U. S. Savings Bonds.....		1,415.50	
Other		16.50	
TOTAL REVENUE			\$75,200.53
EXPENDITURES:			
Travel		\$16,397.49	
Convention		13,496.90	
"American Farmer" keys.....		3,286.09	
Printing		5,416.78	
National office expense		20,303.21	
National Camp and Old Mill.....		1,815.00	
Judging expense		497.80	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES			61,213.27
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURES.....			\$13,987.26

Receipts and Disbursements

There is presented in Exhibit "C" a statement showing in summary form all of the recorded cash receipts and disbursements of the year under review. A list of membership dues collected during the year is presented in Schedule 1.

Explanatory Comments

CASH IN BANK was verified by direct correspondence with the depository and reconciliation of the balance reported with the amount shown by the books. All recorded cash receipts were traced to the record of their deposit in bank, and all disbursements through the bank account were evidenced by properly executed, cancelled checks, with the exception of checks outstanding at June 30, 1955. The addition of the cash books was verified by us.

INVESTMENTS, consisting of \$53,875.00 maturity value United States savings bonds, series F and J, as shown in the balance sheet, were inspected by us. They are carried at cost plus interest earned to the balance sheet date.

LOAN RECEIVABLE was confirmed by direct correspondence with the debtor. This account represents amounts advanced to "The National Future Farmer" as follows:

Cash advances	\$36,786.20
Expenses paid	7,713.80
TOTAL.....	<u>\$44,500.00</u>

The above cash advances were made to the magazine in prior years. The magazine was authorized to draw a maximum of \$10,000.00 under the current year's budget but did not need this advance. It is anticipated that part of the loan will be repaid within the next year.

The organization TRADEMARK is carried on the books at its estimated cost.

FIXED ASSETS are stated at cost, in the case of those at the National Camp, plus the fair market value of gifts received during prior years.

Office furniture and equipment are stated at their estimated value at October 31, 1941, plus subsequent additions at cost.

Because of the fact that none of the fixed assets have ever been depreciated and because there has undoubtedly been a considerable volume of unrecorded additions to office and camp properties by gift and other unrecorded sources, the values of the assets shown on the balance sheet are probably far from their actual worth. For this reason we again suggest that all property assets be appraised in order that they may be adjusted to their current valuation.

SURPLUS is analyzed in the balance sheet. It will be noted that the loan in the amount of \$17,500.00 payable to the Future Farmers Supply Service was cancelled by them during the year under review.

Exhibit "A"

Balance Sheet

June 30, 1955

ASSETS**CURRENT ASSETS:**

Cash in bank (Exhibit "C").....	\$ 37,257.53	
U. S. savings bonds, series F and J:		
Dated February 1, 1943.....	\$ 10,000.00	
Dated September 1, 1943.....	15,000.00	
Dated June 1, 1944.....	5,000.00	
Dated June 1, 1945.....	10,000.00	
Dated November 1, 1954.....	13,875.00	
	<hr/>	
Total Maturity Value.....	\$ 53,875.00	
Less: Reserve for unearned interest....	5,029.50	48,845.50

Loan receivable:

"The National Future Farmer":

Cash advances	\$ 36,786.20	
Expenses paid in prior periods.....	7,713.80	44,500.00

TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS.....	\$130,603.03
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OTHER ASSET:

Trademark	500.00
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FIXED ASSETS:

National Camp:

Land	\$12,343.23	
Buildings	15,317.16	
Equipment	3,288.28	\$ 30,948.67

National Office:

Furniture and fixtures.....	1,031.46	31,980.13
	<hr/>	<hr/>
		\$163,083.16

SURPLUS**SURPLUS:**

Balance, July 1, 1954.....	\$131,595.90	
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Add:

Cancellation of loan by the
Future Farmers Supply

Service	\$17,500.00	
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Excess of revenue over
expenditures (Exhibit

"B")	13,987.26	31,487.26
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Balance, June 30, 1955.....	\$163,083.16
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Statement of Revenue and Expenditures

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1955

Exhibit "B"

REVENUE:

	REVENUE		Budget Estimate	Excess Over Estimate
	Detail	Total		
Membership dues (Schedule 1)		\$38,321.90	\$38,000.00	\$ 321.90
Royalties:				
L. G. Balfour Company.....	\$15,666.06			
Custom Cal Company	143.50			
The Fair Publishing House....	339.15			
The Osborne Company.....	8,117.93			
St. Louis Button Company....	179.99	24,446.63	20,000.00	4,446.63
Other revenue:				
Old Mill	\$ 2,000.00			
Future Farmers Supply Service:				
Rent	1,500.00			
Grant	7,500.00			
Interest on U. S. Sav. Bonds..	1,415.50			
Miscellaneous	16.50	12,432.00	11,125.00	1,307.00
TOTALS		\$75,200.53	\$69,125.00	\$ 6,075.53
Appropriated from surplus to balance budget			13,325.00	(13,325.00)
TOTAL REVENUE		\$75,200.53	\$82,450.00	\$(7,249.47)

EXPENDITURES:

	EXPENDED		Appro- priations	Unexpended Balance
	Detail	Total		
Travel:				
National officers	\$ 9,768.51		\$10,000.00	\$ 231.49
Board of directors	1,915.23		2,800.00	884.77
Special travel—National ad- visor, secretary, and other	314.23		2,600.00	2,285.77
International	4,399.52		5,000.00	600.48
Totals—Travel		\$16,397.49	\$20,400.00	\$ 4,002.51
Convention:				
Delegate expense	\$ 4,295.47		\$ 4,300.00	\$ 4.53
Special features	3,857.30		5,000.00	1,142.70
Buttons, badges, programs....	1,140.27		1,200.00	59.73
Stenotypist	237.15		175.00	(62.15)
Photographs and publicity....	169.08		500.00	330.92
Decorations	630.09		1,000.00	369.91
Equipment rental	162.45		300.00	137.55
Building service	56.00		65.00	9.00
Communications	93.81		100.00	6.19
Secretarial travel expense....	980.97		1,300.00	319.03
Awards and certificates.....	1,521.04		1,500.00	(21.04)
Miscellaneous	353.27		350.00	(3.27)
Totals—Convention		13,496.90	\$15,790.00	\$ 2,293.10

[Forwarded]

\$29,894.39

	EXPENDED		Appropriations	Unexpended Balance
	Detail	Total		
[Forwarded]		\$29,894.39		
"American Farmer"—keys:				
Total expenditures		3,286.09	\$ 3,800.00	\$ 513.91
Printing:				
Literature and proceedings....	\$ 3,688.20		\$ 3,300.00	\$ (388.20)
Stationery, forms, etc.....	1,728.58		1,100.00	(628.58)
Totals—Printing		5,416.78	\$ 4,400.00	\$ (1,016.78)
National office:				
Secretarial salaries:				
Executive sec.'s office.....	\$ 3,869.62		\$ 3,785.00	\$ (84.62)
National treasurer's office	1,563.73		1,350.00	(213.73)
Director of Public Relations:				
Salary	6,966.62		6,440.00	(526.62)
Travel	1,135.87		1,500.00	364.13
Secretary—salary	3,411.47		3,335.00	(76.47)
Telephone and telegraph.....	341.99		700.00	358.01
Postage, express, etc.....	148.92		200.00	51.08
Bond premiums and taxes.....	45.00		100.00	55.00
Supplies, equip., and rents.....	634.47		850.00	215.53
Auditing	165.00		150.00	(15.00)
Photographs	549.76		500.00	(49.76)
Architect's fee	500.00		500.00	
Miscellaneous	970.76		1,450.00	479.24
Totals—National Office		20,303.21	\$20,860.00	\$ 556.79
National Camp and Old Mill:				
Mill attendant—salary	\$ 1,500.00		\$ 1,500.00	
Insurance	261.00		300.00	\$ 39.00
Maintenance	54.00		500.00	446.00
Totals—National Camp and Old Mill.....		1,815.00	\$ 2,300.00	\$ 485.00
Judging expense		497.80	\$ 500.00	\$ 2.20
"The National Future Farmer" magazine			\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Contingent			\$ 4,400.00	\$ 4,400.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		\$61,213.27	\$82,450.00	\$21,236.73
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURES		\$13,987.26	\$ —	\$13,987.26

Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1955

"Exhibit "C"

BALANCE, JULY 1, 1954..... \$ 24,675.77

RECEIPTS:

Membership dues (Schedule 1)	\$ 38,321.90	
Royalties (Exhibit "B")	24,446.63	
National Camp and Old Mill.....	2,000.00	

Future Farmers Supply Service:

Rent	\$ 1,500.00	
Grant	7,500.00	9,000.00

Income tax withheld from employees.....	2,157.60	
Employees' old-age benefits.....	326.75	
Miscellaneous	16.50	
Redemption of U. S. savings bonds, series F	10,000.00	

Expense refunds:

Travel	\$ 149.09	
Convention	1,125.35	
National office	343.18	
Printing	576.40	2,194.02

TOTAL RECEIPTS..... \$ 88,463.40

\$113,139.17

DISBURSEMENTS:

Travel	\$ 16,546.58
Convention	14,622.25
"American Farmer" keys.....	3,286.09
Printing	5,993.18
National office expense.....	20,319.52
National Camp and Old Mill.....	1,815.00
Withholding tax remitted to Federal Government	2,157.60
Employee and employer social security tax paid	653.62
Judging	497.80
Purchase of U. S. savings bonds, series J	9,990.00

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS..... 75,881.64BALANCE, JUNE 30, 1955 (Exhibit "A")..... \$ 37,257.53

Membership Dues Collected

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1955

Schedule 1

<u>Associations</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Associations</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Alabama	\$ 1,294.20	New Jersey.....	\$ 151.00
Arizona	153.20	New Mexico	210.80
Arkansas	1,282.70	New York.....	660.60
California	1,218.10	North Carolina.....	2,260.60
Colorado	251.10	North Dakota.....	213.90
Connecticut	52.10	Ohio	1,154.20
Delaware	68.90	Oklahoma	1,589.40
Florida	835.50	Oregon	375.60
Georgia	1,773.40	Pennsylvania	1,083.20
Hawaii	139.80	Puerto Rico.....	580.80
Idaho	337.70	Rhode Island.....	14.20
Illinois	1,757.80	South Carolina.....	777.60
Indiana	932.40	South Dakota	279.40
Iowa	1,008.90	Tennessee	1,551.20
Kansas	753.50	Texas	3,771.80
Kentucky	1,197.70	Utah	297.80
Louisiana	987.60	Vermont	75.10
Maine	109.40	Virginia	810.60
Maryland	215.70	Washington	641.10
Massachusetts	97.90	West Virginia.....	531.50
Michigan	1,052.80	Wisconsin	1,428.60
Minnesota	1,084.60	Wyoming	150.60
Mississippi	1,021.60		
Missouri	1,192.10		
Montana	233.10		
Nebraska	585.40		
Nevada	35.20		
New Hampshire.....	39.90		
		TOTAL DUES	
		COLLECTED	
		(Exhibits "B"	
		and "C")	<u>\$38,321.90</u>

FUTURE FARMERS SUPPLY SERVICE**Balance Sheet**

June 30, 1955

ASSETS

Current:

Cash in Bank.....	\$33,733.10	
Cash in Bank—Contingent Fund.....	11,008.88	
Petty Cash	50.00	
Accounts Receivable—Customers	9,150.00	
Accounts Receivable—Other	212.04	
Merchandise Inventory	82,049.35	
Total Current Assets.....		\$136,203.37

Prepaid Expense:

Stationery and Supplies.....	\$ 4,800.00	
Insurance	3,035.91	
Miscellaneous	855.61	8,691.52

Fixed:

	Cost	Accumulated Depreciation	Net	
Furniture and Fixtures....	\$19,488.11	\$5,515.98	\$13,972.13	
Trucks	4,377.11	2,204.98	2,172.13	
Leasehold Improvements..	9,604.22	1,911.92	7,692.30	23,836.56

Other:

Preliminary Cost of New Building.....	\$ 500.00	
Utility Deposit	45.00	545.00
Total Assets		<u>\$169,276.45</u>

LIABILITIES

Current:

Accounts Payable	\$17,063.16	
Withheld Taxes	988.47	
Employee Bond Deductions.....	65.64	
Excise Tax Payable.....	82.18	
Accrued Payroll	1,219.20	
Accrued Taxes	135.16	
Total Current Liabilities.....		\$ 19,553.81

Deferred Income:

Deposits on Sales.....	1,067.47	
Total Liabilities		\$ 20,621.28

NET WORTH

Surplus, July 1, 1954.....	\$130,336.36	
Add: Excess of Income for the Year (Exhibit B).....	\$58,321.46	
Less: Grants to Future Farmers of America.....	\$25,000.00	
Grants to States.....	15,002.65	40,002.65
Surplus, June 30, 1955.....		148,655.17
Total Liabilities and Net Worth.....		<u>\$169,276.45</u>

THE NATIONAL FUTURE FARMER**Balance Sheet**

June 30, 1955

ASSETS

Cash in Bank		\$ 17,501.20	
Accounts Receivable:			
Subscribers	\$ 43.51		
Other	9.76	53.27	
Prepaid Expenses:			
Insurance	13.33		
Advertising	71.90		
Magazine Costs	2,923.26		
Travel	1,317.40		
Stationery and Supplies	352.03	4,677.92	
Furniture and Fixtures	5,012.75		
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	1,136.34	3,876.41	
Total Assets			<u><u>\$26,108.80</u></u>

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	\$ 19,579.31		
Employees' Withheld Taxes.....	508.56		
Accrued Salaries	1,011.65		
Accrued Social Security Tax Expense.....	63.86		
Loan Payable—Future Farmers of America.....	44,500.00		
Unearned Income:			
Subscriptions	31,218.12		
Advertising	1,280.40	32,498.52	98,161.90

NET WORTH

Operating Deficit, July 1, 1954	(\$64,130.97)		
Add: Excess of Expense Over Income			
for the Year (Exhibit B)	(7,922.13)		
Operating Deficit, June 30, 1955.....		(72,053.10)	
Total Liabilities and Net Worth.....		<u><u>\$26,108.80</u></u>	

Awards and Contests

On Tuesday evening, October 11, the Star Farmer Awards were presented by the National Vice Presidents from the respective regions, in the Main Arena of the Municipal Auditorium. The winners were as follows:

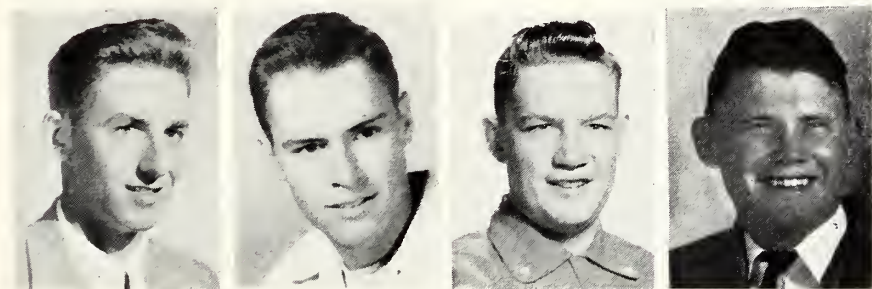
Star Farmer of America—Joe Moore, Granville, Tennessee

Star Farmer, Central Region—Richard K. Arnold, Plainwell, Michigan

Star Farmer, North Atlantic Region—Ross Edward Smith, Jr., Monkton, Maryland

Star Farmer, Pacific Region—S. Lynn Loosli, Ashton, Idaho

A check for \$1,000 went to Moore and checks for \$500 were given the other three Star Farmers named.



WINNERS OF THE NATIONAL FARM MECHANICS AWARDS

(Left to right)—Russ Christie, 1st Place Winner; Dwight Whitaker, Central Regional Winner; LaMoyne Roberts, Pacific Regional Winner; and Ronnie Persyn, Southern Regional Winner.

Other national awards were presented on Wednesday evening, October 12, in the Main Arena of the Municipal Auditorium. Farm Mechanics Award winners were presented by Student Secretary Brouillette, and each winner received a check given on behalf of the Future Farmers of America Foundation, Incorporated. The winners were:

1st Place—Russ Christie, Newton, New Jersey.....	\$250.00
Central Region—Dwight Whitaker, Forest City, Illinois	200.00
Pacific Region—LaMoyne Roberts, Tremonton, Utah....	200.00
Southern Region—Ronnie Persyn, Leming, Texas.....	200.00

Farm Electrification Award winners were presented by Vice President Futrelle, and each winner received a check given on behalf



WINNERS OF THE NATIONAL FARM ELECTRIFICATION AWARDS
 (Left to right)—John Brandon McCool, 1st Place Winner; James C. Petty, Central Regional Winner; John Vaszauskas, North Atlantic Regional Winner; and Joe Daniels, Pacific Regional Winner.



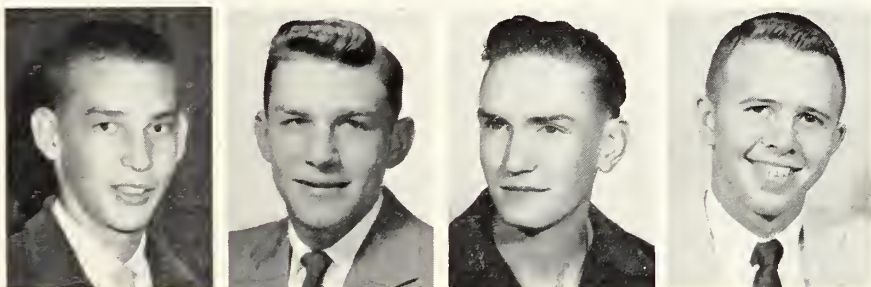
WINNERS OF THE NATIONAL DAIRY FARMING AWARDS
 (Left to right)—George Ford, 1st Place Winner; Eldred Hitchcock, North Atlantic Regional Winner; J. W. Foster, Central Regional Winner; and Sterling Griffiths, Pacific Regional Winner.

of the Future Farmers of America Foundation, Incorporated. The winners were:

1st Place—John Brandon McCool, Reform, Alabama.....	\$250.00
Central Region—James C. Petty, Gracey, Kentucky.....	200.00
North Atlantic Region—	
John Vaszauskas, Middlebury, Connecticut.....	200.00
Pacific Region—Joe Daniels, Thermopolis, Wyoming.....	200.00

Dairy Farming Award winners were announced by President Gunter, and each winner received a check given on behalf of the Future Farmers of America Foundation, Incorporated. Awards had previously been made in Waterloo, Iowa, during the National Dairy Cattle Congress. The winners were:

1st Place—George Ford, Quincy, Florida.....	\$250.00
Central Region—J. W. Foster, Monett, Missouri.....	200.00
North Atlantic Region—	
Eldred Hitchcock, Montrose, Pennsylvania.....	200.00
Pacific Region—Sterling Griffiths, Beaver, Utah.....	200.00



WINNERS OF THE NATIONAL SOIL AND WATER MANAGEMENT AWARDS

(Left to right)—Ben Greene, 1st Place Winner; Kenneth Floyd Serres, Central Regional Winner; Emory Clapp, Pacific Regional Winner; and Woody Bartlett, Southern Regional Winner.

Soil and Water Management Award winners were presented by Vice President Wright, and each winner received a check given on behalf of the Future Farmers of America Foundation, Incorporated. The winners were:

1st Place—Ben Greene, Kenna, West Virginia.....	\$250.00
Central Region—	
Kenneth Floyd Serres, Harrison, Nebraska.....	200.00
Pacific Region—Emory Clapp, Dayton, Washington.....	200.00
Southern Region—	
Woody Bartlett, Montgomery, Alabama.....	200.00



REPRESENTATIVES OF CHAPTERS WINNING NATIONAL FARM SAFETY AWARDS

(Left to right)—Audubon, Iowa, Central Regional Winner; Louisa County, Virginia, Southern Regional Winner; Delmar, Delaware, North Atlantic Regional Winner; and Brighton, Colorado, 1st place winner.

Farm Safety Award winners were presented by Vice President Gisselbeck, and each winner received a check given on behalf of the Future Farmers of America Foundation, Incorporated. The winners were:

1st Place—Brighton Chapter, Colorado.....	\$250.00
Central Region—Audubon Chapter, Iowa.....	200.00
North Atlantic Region—Delmar Chapter, Delaware.....	200.00
Southern Region—	
Louisa County Chapter, Mineral, Virginia.....	200.00

National Chapter Award Program

One hundred and fifteen Future Farmers of America local chapters were honored at the 28th national convention in Kansas City during the presentation of awards in the organization's National Chapter Award Program.

The National FFA Chapter Award Program, conducted annually by the organization, is designed to encourage and reward chapter effort, stimulate group action among members, and to encourage improvement in local chapter programs of work. Both the interest shown and the actual accomplishments over a period of years give ample evidence of the effectiveness of this event. The Award Program has been a valuable aid in stimulating both individual and cooperative effort and in crystallizing chapter programs of work into a series of worthwhile undertakings.

Chapters were grouped into Gold Emblem, Silver Emblem, and Bronze Emblem classifications, according to their records of accomplishment in supervised farming, cooperative activities, community service, leadership activities, earnings and savings by members, conduct of meetings, scholarship of members, recreation and other general activities.

Each chapter in the contest had been selected locally to be entered in the national competition. Emblem winners received plaques designating their award. The one hundred and fifteen chapters in the national contest represent the best from the Future Farmers of America's 8,868 local chapters. The 1955 winners were:

Gold Emblem Classification

Ramer Chapter
Ramer, Alabama
Riverton Chapter
Huntsville, Alabama
Amphitheater Chapter
Tucson, Arizona
Phoenix Technical Chapter
Phoenix, Arizona
Conway Chapter
Conway, Arkansas
Bent Chapter
Las Animas, Colorado
Brighton Chapter
Brighton, Colorado
Housatonic Valley Chapter
Falls Village, Connecticut

Stephen Babcock Chapter
Middletown, Delaware
Quincy Chapter
Quincy, Florida
Suwannee Chapter
Live Oak, Florida
J. F. Williams Memorial Chapter
Live Oak, Florida
Blakely Union Chapter
Blakely, Georgia
Moultrie Chapter
Moultrie, Georgia
Fairbury Chapter
Fairbury, Illinois
Lexington Chapter
Lexington, Illinois

Pearl City Chapter	Linton Chapter
Pearl City, Illinois	Linton, North Dakota
Audubon Chapter	Rugby Chapter
Audubon, Iowa	Rugby, North Dakota
Mount Ayr Chapter	Loudonville Chapter
Mount Ayr, Iowa	Loudonville, Ohio
Waverly Chapter	Marysville Chapter
Waverly, Iowa	Marysville, Ohio
Lafayette Bryan Station Chapter	Mountain View Chapter
Lexington, Kentucky	Mountain View, Oklahoma
Delhi Chapter	Snyder Chapter
Delhi, Louisiana	Snyder, Oklahoma
Slidell Chapter	Albany Chapter
Slidell, Louisiana	Albany, Oregon
Agawam Chapter	Battlefield Chapter
Agawam, Massachusetts	Gettysburg, Pennsylvania
Cassopolis Chapter	District No. 5 Chapter
Cassopolis, Michigan	Duncan, South Carolina
Caro No. 19 Chapter	Clark Chapter
Caro, Michigan	Clark, South Dakota
Forest Lake Chapter	Clifton Chapter
Forest Lake, Minnesota	Clifton, Texas
Winona Chapter	Iraan Chapter
Winona, Minnesota	Iraan, Texas
Inverness Chapter	Nacogdoches Chapter
Inverness, Mississippi	Nacogdoches, Texas
Flathead Chapter	Silverton Chapter
Kalispell, Montana	Silverton, Texas
Huntley Project Chapter	Box Elder Chapter
Worden, Montana	Brigham City, Utah
Auburn Chapter	South Cache Chapter
Auburn, Nebraska	Hyrum, Utah
Newton Chapter	Ashland Chapter
Newton, New Jersey	Ashland, Virginia
Woodstown Chapter	Brookville Chapter
Woodstown, New Jersey	Brookville, Virginia
Deming Chapter	Green Bank Chapter
Deming, New Mexico	Green Bank, West Virginia
Bath Chapter	Ripley Chapter
Bath, North Carolina	Ripley, West Virginia
Wesley Chapel Chapter	
Monroe, North Carolina	

Silver Emblem Classification

Sulligent Chapter	Central Union Chapter
Sulligent, Alabama	Fresno, California
Paris Chapter	Hanford Chapter
Paris, Arkansas	Hanford, California

Newark Chapter
 Newark, Delaware
 Greenville Chapter
 Greenville, Georgia
 Rigby Chapter
 Rigby, Idaho
 Sugar Salem Chapter
 Sugar City, Idaho
 Cisne Chapter
 Cisne, Illinois
 Geneseo Chapter
 Geneseo, Illinois
 Carlisle-Haddon Chapter
 Carlisle, Indiana
 New Albany Chapter
 New Albany, Indiana
 Ellsworth Chapter
 Ellsworth, Kansas
 Washburn Chapter
 Topeka, Kansas
 Sulphur Chapter
 Sulphur, Louisiana
 Gorham Chapter
 Gorham, Maine
 Stockbridge Chapter
 Stockbridge, Massachusetts
 Marshall Chapter
 Marshall, Michigan
 Mountain Lake Chapter
 Mountain Lake, Minnesota
 Kemper County Chapter
 Scooba, Mississippi
 Churchill County Chapter
 Fallon, Nevada

Virgin Valley Chapter
 Bunkerville, Nevada
 Tucumcari Chapter
 Tucumcari, New Mexico
 Greenville Chapter
 Greenville, New York
 Franklin Chapter
 Franklin, North Carolina
 Ontario Chapter
 Ontario, Oregon
 Garden Spot Chapter
 Lampeter, Pennsylvania
 Tunkhannock Chapter
 Tunkhannock, Pennsylvania
 Fairforest Chapter
 Fairforest, South Carolina
 Dickson Chapter
 Dickson, Tennessee
 Livingston Chapter
 Livingston, Texas
 Whitesboro Chapter
 Whitesboro, Texas
 Blacksburg Chapter
 Blacksburg, Virginia
 Wapato Chapter
 Wapato, Washington
 Fife Chapter
 Tacoma, Washington
 Burlington Chapter
 Burlington, Wyoming
 Greybull Chapter
 Greybull, Wyoming

Bronze Emblem Classification

Suttle Chapter
 Suttle, Alabama
 Harmony Grove Chapter
 Camden, Arkansas
 Newport Harbor Chapter
 Newport Beach, California
 Lowery Chapter
 Glenwood, Georgia
 Pearson Chapter
 Pearson, Georgia
 John M. Ross Chapter
 Hakalau, Hawaii

Delphi Chapter
 Delphi, Indiana
 Emporia Chapter
 Emporia, Kansas
 Caldwell County Chapter
 Princeton, Kentucky
 Stamping Ground Chapter
 Stamping Ground, Kentucky
 Forest Chapter
 Forest, Mississippi
 Harrison Chapter
 Harrison, Nebraska

Middleburg Chapter	Sevierian Chapter
Middleburg, New York	Sevierville, Tennessee
Granite Quarry Chapter	Alvin Chapter
Granite Quarry, North Carolina	Alvin, Texas
Grantham Chapter	Poultney Chapter
Goldsboro, North Carolina	Poultney, Vermont
Carrollton Chapter	Vergennes Chapter
Carrollton, Ohio	Vergennes, Vermont
Loris Chapter	
Loris, South Carolina	

Judges for the 1955 National Chapter Contest were: E. J. Johnson, Program Specialist in Agricultural Education, Pacific Region; R. E. Naugher, Program Specialist in Agricultural Education, Southern Region; A. W. Tenney, Program Specialist in Agricultural Education, Central Region; and H. N. Hunsicker, Program Specialist in Agricultural Education, North Atlantic Region.

Star Farmer Awards

Since 1929, Star Farmers have been selected annually from the American Farmer Candidates, receiving the Degree at the time of



- (1)—JOE MOORE
Granville, Tennessee
1955 Star Farmer of America
- (2)—RICHARD K. ARNOLD
Plainwell, Michigan
1955 Star Farmer of
Central Region

- (3)—ROSS EDWARD SMITH, JR.
Monkton, Maryland
1955 Star Farmer of
North Atlantic Region
- (4)—S. LYNN LOOSLI
Ashton, Idaho
1955 Star Farmer of
Pacific Region

the National FFA Convention. The records of outstanding candidates were reviewed by the following individuals:

Mr. H. H. Bloom, President, Massey-Harris-Ferguson, Inc., Racine, Wisconsin;

Mr. A. F. Davis, Secretary, The James F. Lincoln Arc Welding Foundation, Cleveland, Ohio;

Mr. Clark W. Davis, General Manager, Grasselli Chemicals Department, E. I. duPont deNemours & Company, Wilmington, Delaware;

Mr. Raymond C. Firestone, Executive Vice President, Firestone Tire and Rubber Company, Akron, Ohio;

Mr. Hugo Riemer, President, Nitrogen Division, Allied Chemical & Dye Corporation, New York, New York;

Mr. Roderick Turnbull, Editor, The Weekly Star Farmer, Kansas City, Missouri.

JOE MOORE

Star Farmer of America

Joe Moore got his foot on the first rung of the ladder to success in farming at the age of eight. He planted it there with a courage and a will that is strongly evident in the grown-up farmer he is today.

Joe wanted more than anything in the world, when he was eight years old, to have a certain Jersey cow that he helped to drive up from the pasture each evening. His mother and dad, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Moore, were almost as fervent in their desire to have Joe stop a "baby" habit of sucking his thumb. They made a deal. Joe could get the cow if, and when, he stopped sucking his thumb.

The circumstances of that bargain are as clear to 21-year-old Joe Moore today as they were twelve years ago. "Every time that thumb started toward my mouth, I could see that cow," he recalls, "and down it came."

The youngster traded a bad habit for the beginning of a farming program that ranks as tops among the more than 383,000 members of the Future Farmers of America.

Today, in the hilly section of Jackson County in Middle Tennessee Joe has complete control and managerial responsibility of a \$46,000 farm business, with a net worth, after notes and mortgages are deducted, of about \$36,000. He has built it all from his own efforts, with the exception of a \$4,200 gift from his parents provided in lieu of the money Joe would have required had he chosen to attend college instead of farming.

His farming program this year started with about \$15,000 worth of livestock, including 78 head of beef cattle, 26 of them high

quality registered Angus; 7 registered Duroc-Jersey sows and 39 feeder hogs, and 78 sheep. The best heifer calves from his registered cows will be kept for expansion of the herd, and many of the pigs from his sows will be sold as breeding stock to other farmers.

He farms 505 acres, including 85 acres that he owns, renting the remainder. Crops grown include 3.7 acres of burley tobacco, 32 acres in small grains, 61 acres in corn and 32 acres for hay. He has 155 acres of pasture for his cattle and sheep, with the remainder of the acreage in timber or waste land. The tobacco is raised as a cash crop. Most of the grain is used for feeding his livestock.

With that scope in his farm, a good break in weather, and reasonable prices, he can expect an income of eight to ten thousand dollars for his labor this year. This labor, incidentally, involves a usual "work day" of 5 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Joe's early efforts in farming were largely in the direction of feeding and fitting cattle for exhibition at livestock shows and fairs. Starting with the Jersey cow, he soon bought another heifer calf, and exhibited them. The prize money offered for beef calves was better, though, so Joe saved his money and bought a little black steer calf. He fed the calf for five months and exhibited him at the Nashville Fat Cattle show.

"I soon realized I'd have to get a better calf and feed him more if I was to do any good in that show," he related.

Joe did get better calves, and he bought a high quality Duroc-Jersey gilt that started him in the registered swine business. He began winning at the shows with his prize animals. The prize money he won, and all other money he could save, was re-invested in more livestock.

Mrs. Moore has taken particular pride in her son's winnings at the shows and took over the job of keeping his scrapbook. She has covered the walls of Joe's room with the ribbons he won in the shows. Joe kept the record of the financial returns. His total of prize money since 1948 amounts to \$1,723.00.

Joe entered the Jackson County High School at Gainesboro in the fall of 1948 and enrolled in the vocational agriculture course taught by Robert M. Fox. He joined the FFA chapter and developed quickly into one of its outstanding young leaders. Perhaps he was a "natural". His father had been the first president of the Tennessee FFA Association.

It was at about this time he bought his first registered Angus cow, and started in the sheep business with five ewes. Working closely with Mr. Fox, he planned a long-time farming program, then began building toward achieving it.

"Through four years of high school I worked hard night and morning and through the summer vacations on my livestock and crop projects," Joe said. "My main purpose centered around one

thing, and that was to save all that I possibly could in order to buy more livestock, farm machinery, and to build up my farming program. I also wanted to own my own land."

When he graduated from high school with honors in 1952, Joe had a big decision to make. Mr. and Mrs. Moore both had college educations, Joe's older sister had completed college, and his best girl friend (whom he intends to marry soon) was planning to go to college.

As a result of his outstanding work in the FFA Joe had been offered a college scholarship. Both parents wanted him to take it, but Joe was 18 years old and they were willing to let him have his choice. If he did choose college, it would mean giving up his livestock and most of the start in farming that he had built. He chose to farm.

The parents owned about 500 acres of land in the Tennessee basin. Mr. Moore worked as district salesman for a feed and fertilizer concern, and had given little of his time to the farm. Joe recalls that: "Part of the land was level and part in bluegrass hills, grown up with hedgeapples and blackberry briars. There was very little fence that would turn livestock. The cultivated land had been sharecropped for years with little or no thought given to soil conservation and farm improvement."

Mr. Moore offered to let Joe have the farm for an annual cash rent of \$1,400, provided Joe would take all responsibility, own all livestock and machinery, and try to build up the land both from a soil conservation standpoint and farm improvement view. Joe signed the agreement and was in business. Last fall he bought 85 acres of the farm, paying \$4,000 down and signing a note for \$6,000. He still pays cash rent for the remainder of the land. In the meantime, he needed additional machinery and livestock, so borrowed an additional \$4,000 that was used for that purpose.

The old farm is beginning to sparkle back to life under Joe's management. He has put up more than 12,000 feet of wire in new fences. He cleared 50 acres of pasture land, fertilized and sowed it to improved grasses, and opened drainage ditches to clear excess water from low spots. He uses heavy applications of fertilizer on his row crops to build up the productive ability of the soil. Eventually, he hopes to have most of the land in grasses and legumes to provide year-around pasture for his cattle and sheep.

He has built a cattle feeding shed, a tobacco barn, and some small hog houses. He and his fiancée, Ann Huffines, already have plans drawn up for the home they plan to build on Joe's 85 acres.

Busy at farming as he has been, Joe still found time to mark up an enviable record in leadership. He held his first office (reporter) in the FFA chapter in 1951, was elected secretary the following year, and then chapter president. In 1953 he won the election as State FFA president over the 15,000 Tennessee membership.

Out of school now, he's an active member of Farm Bureau and Lion's Club, vice president of the Jackson County Fair Association,

member of the county's Green Pastures Committee, and for the past three years has been director of singing in the local Church of Christ.

S. LYNN LOOSLI

Star Farmer—Pacific Region

The 1955 Star Farmer of the Pacific Region, Lynn Loosli, owns a 40-acre farm valued at about \$4,500, rents an additional 43 acres of land and has a herd of 44 registered Hereford cattle, all earned through his own efforts in a farming program begun in 1950 with 10 acres of potatoes.

His father, Stanley Loosli, rented the land to Lynn in 1950 while the boy was enrolled as a freshman student of vocational agriculture at the North Fremont high school, Ashton, Idaho.

"He asked me to treat him exactly as I would any other tenant," Mr. Loosli related. "And that's the way it was. He paid exactly the same prices, and held exactly the same responsibilities as any other person renting land."

A poor crop yield and low potato prices that year held the income for his labor on the potatoes to \$419. Not counted was his labor on the rest of the farm to pay for his use of Mr. Loosli's machinery. The next year's crop was better, though, and Lynn was able to buy seven registered Hereford heifers and plant eight acres of wheat to bring some diversification into his farming program.

Lynn finally got a combination of good crops and good prices in 1952 when the produce of 18 acres of Certified seed potatoes yielded a labor income of \$8,854. It was after that crop year that he was able to buy the 40-acre farm, and to invest in some needed machinery. He now owns nearly \$5,000 worth of machinery and equipment, including 50 percent interest with Mr. Loosli in a tractor. He finished paying for the tractor last year.

Lynn became a charter member of the North Fremont FFA chapter in 1950 when the school first established a vocational agriculture department with Seth Forsgren as instructor. Mr. Forsgren later left the school to teach at Nampa, Idaho, and Leonard Hull, who replaced him at North Fremont, is the current FFA advisor.

Indicative of the high regard Lynn holds for his vocational agriculture instructors (and perhaps an extension of his program of diversification), is the fact that he chose Agricultural Education as his major subject when he entered the Utah State Agricultural College in the fall of 1953. He will receive good agricultural training, and at the same time be qualified to teach high school vocational agriculture if circumstances warrant it.

Most of the work required on his farming program falls during the summer months when Lynn is at home. During the school term he spends most of the weekends at home, and Mr. Loosli looks after his livestock while he is away.

While in high school Lynn was an active leader in the FFA. He served one year as secretary of the chapter, then was district secretary, and in 1953 was elected State FFA secretary. It was also in 1953 that he won a \$100 award as Idaho's Star State Farmer, and was a member of the Fremont FFA livestock judging team that took high honors in two state contests.

In addition to the FFA leadership, he was an officer of his Freshman class, an honor student throughout high school, member of the school's basketball, football, and track teams. He played in the school band four years, and won the rank of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America organization.

At Utah State he represents the School of Agriculture in the Student Council, is secretary of Blue Key, a scholastic and service fraternity.

Young Loosli's farming program this year included the 44 Hereford cattle with pasture to feed them, and 18 acres of Certified seed potatoes. Irrigation is used extensively on the farm.

In addition to the training received from his vocational agriculture instructors, Lynn has had the experience of watching his father become one of the most modern and successful farmers in the community. Thirty years ago, Mr. Loosli started farming on rented ground. Since then, his holdings have grown to 1,000 acres. The family lives in an attractive and comfortable 10-room white house, surrounded by spacious lawns, on the home farm.

With that background, and the fact that Lynn already has a personal investment of about \$40,000 in farming, chances are pretty good that he'll never need that job teaching school.

RICHARD K. ARNOLD

Star Farmer—Central Region

Sole management and ownership of a \$92,000 farming operation on 487 acres, plus 200 acres rented, is taken modestly but with confidence by Richard K. Arnold of Plainwell, Michigan, the 1955 Star Farmer of FFA's Central Region. A farming operation of that size is no plum suddenly dropped into his lap, but rather another step upward for this sure-footed young farmer, who just turned 21 on September 20th.

While still in high school Dick rented and operated a 100-acre farm and worked with his father on the 487 acre home farm. After graduating from the Plainwell school in June, 1953, he joined with his father as a full partner in operating 587 acres. He is now married, and he and his wife, Carol, have a daughter, Cathy Ann, born last August 29.

During the two years the father-son partnership was in effect, Dick studied ways of getting started in farming on his own. He discussed the problem at length with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dan

J. Arnold, and his high school vocational agriculture instructor, Carl Stuewer.

The counsel of capable lawyers was sought and followed, resulting in a unique three-point plan to buy the farm: A detailed purchase agreement was worked up to include all provisions for the transfer of property; wills were executed by both Dick and his parents to insure the future for Dick's wife and his sister, and an insurance program was established to protect the parents as well as his wife during the completion of the contract of purchase.

The obligations Dick assumed in the transaction totalled more than \$75,000, so that even though the young farmer controls a \$92,000 business, his actual net worth at the present time is about \$17,000.

An idea of the size of his enterprise may be seen in the farm records of 1954 when gross sales, plus increase in inventory, was about \$42,000. Expenses were high, too, but Dick's 50 percent share of the net profits amounted to \$4,037.

He hires three men to work on a full-time basis, and often has several other hands at work during rush seasons. Mr. and Mrs. Arnold now live in a comfortable home about half a mile away from Dick's place.

"Dad plans to operate his farm with help from me on major jobs, and I will work the large farm and rent additional land," Dick reported. "I will need Dad's experience and help from time to time, for in an operation of this size, many things have to be done, and on time."

Dick and his sister were adopted by the Arnolds when he was 9 years old and she was 7, after their real parents had died. The sister, Bonnie, is now attending college.

"From the day we came, we have been their children and they our parents," Dick said. "No foster parents could ever do more for two adopted children than they have done for us."

Guessing on farm returns these days is a risky business, but Dick hopes his gross farm income will be nearly \$100,000 this year. He operates 530 tillable acres, including 200 acres of corn, 20 acres of Sudan grass, 120 acres of hay, 45 acres of barley, 30 acres of oats, 12 acres of wheat, 89 acres of pasture, and 14 acres of clover. He has 107 purebred Holstein dairy cows. The herd includes 55 milking cows and two registered bulls. He also takes advantage of the good breeding offered through a local artificial insemination association.

The heart of Dick's farm business is the detailed records he keeps, including those of financial transactions, dairy production, and breeding. His dairy cows have averaged about 420 pounds of butterfat annually for the past several years, and one cow produced over 700 pounds last year. Production records show the individual cows whose calves should be good for herd replacements.

Another keystone is his integrated soil improvement plan. A crop rotation program has been worked out to get maximum production of the corn and other feeds he needs, while guarding against soil erosion and depletion. Manure from the dairy barn is carefully saved and applied to the sandy soil. Dick follows a regular yearly program of testing the soil to find exactly what his fertilizer needs are. In addition to the manure, crops usually get a liberal dose of commercial fertilizers.

The dairy herd grazes on Sudan grass in mid-summer and gets grass silage the year around. High quality alfalfa-brome grass hay is baled and stored in the 179 by 32 foot barn. Oats are cut before the grain ripens, for silage. Portable hay racks and a water wagon provide hay and water at all times to the livestock on pasture. A complete program of livestock disease control through vaccination and sanitation guards against loss of his cattle.

Young Arnold has 25 gilts that will be bred to have their litters in late April. The hogs are put in the cornfields to glean grain left by the pickers, and by delaying their pigs until spring, they can be raised without large investment in farrowing houses. Except for annual replacement of the gilts, the pigs are sold as feeders.

His farming operation requires a line of farm machinery valued at more than \$10,000, including five tractors, truck, combine, corn picker, automatic hay baler, grain and hay elevators, feed grinder and mixer, and gutter cleaner, to mention but a few. Most of the equipment has been acquired over a period of several years, but Dick keeps it in good condition.

Future plans call for using lumber from his own woods to convert part of the barn to a "loose housing" system designed to save labor. He also is studying the possibilities of irrigation, with the nearby Kalamazoo river a potential source of water.

Dick still finds time to engage in community affairs. He is a district director and first vice president of the Michigan Junior Farm Bureau. He has been that group's Farm Safety Committee chairman for two years, and as such directed an intensive drive by Michigan young people to point out safety hazards on 4,000 farms throughout the state.

He also is active in the Grange, the Soil Conservation District, Dairy Herd Improvement Association, Kalamazoo Milk Producers' Cooperative, and the First Baptist Church of Plainwell.

While in high school Dick served one-year terms as treasurer, secretary, and president of the FFA chapter, he was vice president and president of his area FFA association, and served in 1953-54 as state president of the Michigan FFA Association.

His grades in school placed him fifth in the class of 53 graduating seniors; he was president of his Senior class and treasurer of his Sophomore class, and served one year as editor of the high school newspaper.

ROSS SMITH, JR.

Star Farmer—North Atlantic Region

Ross Edward Smith, Jr., Star Farmer of the North Atlantic Region, who operates a 283 acre dairy farm in partnership with his father, is the fourth son of Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Smith to become well established farmers in the rolling hills of Harford County in northern Maryland.

Three of young Ross' older brothers own farms adjoining the home place, and two of his sisters married farmers.

It was in partnership with one of the brothers, Charles, that Ross got his start with the registered Holstein dairy cattle that are the heart of his farming program. Ross raised 50 ducks when he was 10 years old. Proceeds from the ducks went into the purchase of a steer calf that he fattened out and sold. With that money, he was able to go 50-50 with his brother in the purchase of four registered Holstein heifers, the first registered cattle to be brought to the farm.

When Ross enrolled in the North Harford High School the vocational agriculture instructor, Palmer Hopkins, advised the brothers to continue with development of their Holstein herd, and to branch out with other projects. Hopkins, incidentally, who worked closely with Ross for the past seven years, recently joined the Agricultural Education staff at the University of Maryland.

The brothers had 9 Holsteins in 1948. When Charles bought his own farm in 1953 and they divided the herd, they had 34, all of top quality stock. In the meantime, Ross had branched out to fatten a few beef steers and raise some hogs. As a junior in school he tried raising 6 acres of tomatoes but the income of \$929 for all the labor he put into them brought about an abrupt shift from that enterprise. A flock of 125 turkeys raised in 1952 was more successful, returning \$617.69 with much less work involved, but still they didn't quite fit into the plans of a dairy farmer and that's what Ross intended to be.

Ross was graduated from high school in the spring of 1952, and it was shortly after Charles struck out on his own that Mr. Smith, now 62 years old, decided he needed a partner. He had bought the place during the depression and spent some harrowing years holding on to it while raising his family.

"There were times when we didn't have the money to buy a postage stamp," he related.

Father and son worked out a partnership agreement whereby young Ross put up \$2,325 to purchase half interest in the farm machinery, added his registered Holstein herd to the 30 head of grade cows that Mr. Smith owned. Mr. Smith furnishes the farm and farm buildings, all fertilizer, and two-thirds of all purchased feed, seed, fuel, and other supplies. He made a provision in his will that Ross, Jr., would inherit the farm with the stipulation that he pay \$3,000 to each of his seven brothers and sisters.

Under the agreement Mr. Smith gets two-thirds of the milk check and anything else sold. Ross receives the other third of the proceeds, except that he gets all of the money brought in by sale of any of his original registered cattle and their calves.

The dairy herd now totals about 65 head, and with the exception of 20 acres of timber and waste land, the farm is used primarily for the production of feed crops and pasture for the cattle. They had 60 acres of corn, 52 acres of small grains, and 39 acres of alfalfa this year. Much of the corn was used to fill three silos for winter feed.

Ross' registered herd has now been built back to 34 head. His grown cows averaged 12,613 pounds of milk and 467 pounds of butterfat last year. One cow that he bought when he was a freshman in high school has a record of 20,550 pounds of milk and 706 pounds of butterfat.

Ross is proud of his cattle and likes to exhibit them at fairs and shows. He has won more than \$1,200 in prizes with his stock. Prize ribbons in his collection include 10 grand champions, and 51 first places.

The young farmer married his neighborhood sweetheart, Jeannette Standiford, last February 19. They have rented a small bungalow across the road from the parents home. They have furnished it nicely with new furniture, and the location is convenient to the home farm lot and barns.

Ross has been an outstanding leader in both the Future Farmers of America organization and the 4-H Clubs. He served one year terms as sentinel, treasurer, and vice president of the North Harford FFA chapter, and was elected state FFA treasurer for 1952-53. Earlier, he had been president of his 4-H Club two years, and since 1953 he has been serving as a local 4-H leader.

Now that he's well established in farming, Ross has adopted a program of helping other boys get their start. He gives a registered heifer calf each year to the North Harford FFA chapter which, in turn, gives it to one of the young members. The recipient agrees to return a heifer to the FFA, thus setting up a "chain" of calves given to help beginning Future Farmers.

Ross is active in the local Young Farmers organization, the county Holstein Breeders Association, I. O. O. F., and serves as an usher in the Lutheran church.

He is responsible for much of the improvement work that had been done in recent years. It was at his urging that a complete soil conservation program relying heavily on strip-cropping and grass-land farming has been adopted. The barnyard was paved with concrete by Ross and Mr. Smith, and two silos have been added.

One of his jobs was that of building a three-fourths acre farm pond about 100 yards from the main farm buildings. Just as a reminder of his start in the farming business, Ross has a flock of ducks that make their home on the pond.

Public Speaking Contest

The Annual National FFA Public Speaking Contest was first made possible in 1930 through the interest and generosity of Senator Arthur Capper of Kansas who, for two years sponsored the event and offered prizes. From that time until 1944 the national organization of Future Farmers of America was the sponsor. During the past eleven years the Future Farmers of America Foundation, Incorporated, sponsored the contest and gave the awards.

The Twenty-sixth National FFA Public Speaking Contest took place in the Main Arena of the Municipal Auditorium on Monday, October 10. The five finalists placing in the order indicated were:

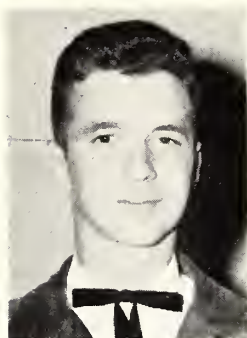
1. Liberato Viduya, Jr., Lanai City, Lanai, Hawaii—"Soil, The Stepping Stone to Freedom"
2. Lee Todd, Bells, Tennessee—"The Land Is Our Trust"
3. Clark Reber, Bunkerville, Nevada—"Farm Organizations: An Answer To Our Farm Problems"
4. Clarence Van Dyke, Unionville, Pennsylvania—"A Valley With A Vision"
5. Jerry Litton, Chillicothe, Missouri — "Farming — A Challenge and An Opportunity"

Each contestant was the author of his own speech, having studied his subject, prepared the draft and practiced its delivery. Each speech represented original thought and original work on the part of the contestants, with coaching on composition and delivery limited, by the rules of the contest, to facilities of the school from which the contestant came. Each boy was at liberty to choose his own subject.

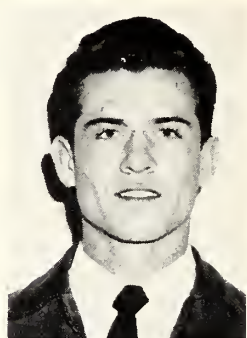
The contest was judged by three competent persons. Prior to the contest the judges were furnished with typewritten copies of the contestant's productions which they read and graded on contest and composition. At the contest the judges scored each contestant on his production. A maximum of 300 points was allowed for the written production and 700 points for delivery. Questions were asked by the judges to test each contestant on his ability to think on his feet and on general knowledge of his subject.

The judges were:

Shelby M. Jackson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Department of Education, Baton Rouge, Louisiana



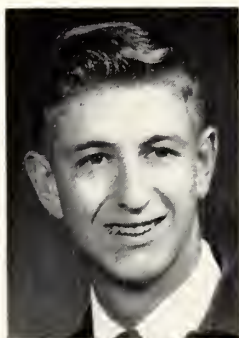
LEE TODD



CLARK REBER



LIBERATO VIDUYA, JR.



JERRY LITTON



CLARENCE VAN DYKE

Wib Justi, Youth Director, The National Grange, Washington, D. C.
Ralph H. Woods, President, Murray State College, Murray, Kentucky

The timekeepers were:

Roy P. Stewart, Columnist, Daily Oklahoman, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Harold E. Heldreth, Agricultural Representative, Farm Division, National Safety Council, Chicago, Illinois

SOIL, THE STEPPING STONE TO FREEDOM

By Liberato Viduya, Jr., Lanai City, Lanai, Hawaii

Speaking on food and soil conservation, Theodore Roosevelt once said, "We must consider not only how to produce, but also how production affects the producer." Even in this day of scientific farming too often we are inclined to believe that we farmers are the indispensable producers. We conveniently tend to forget that the soil is not just plain dirt that needs to be washed off our clothing, but our vital partner in production.

We need only trace the history of mankind a few years, to realize that the soil is one of the greatest heritages that was passed on from one generation to another. When soil was destroyed, civilization went with it. The downfall of the great Greek and Roman Empires was greatly due to neglect and careless use of their soil. In Asia the once prosperous China washed away her strength and prosperity together with her soil.

Today, confused peoples of various nations are pitting one idea against another in the hope of acquiring more materials and land. In the midst of this confusion, thoughtless leaders are bringing into ruin many millions of acres of valuable living space.

Battles may be won and ideas may be imposed upon others, but freedom cannot flourish on an unproductive land. If warring nations should continue to destroy the productiveness of the land, and leave unchecked the loss of soils through the forces of nature, the higher ideals of mankind will most certainly collapse.

A starving nation is analogous to a hungry child. If you should try to teach a hungry child the meaning of honesty, you will most likely fail. However, if you should fill the belly of this hungry child with some food before giving him a lesson in honesty, chances are greater that you will succeed. Likewise, it is impossible to have peace and freedom in a country populated by ill-clothed, diseased and hungry people.

It is not uncommon to see pictures and hear accounts of the starving people throughout this earth. We sympathize with them and many of us are trying to relieve them of their miseries, at the same time hoping that they will live to become freedom loving individuals.

In fulfilling this hope we must not forget that with each acre of valuable land lost an equivalent amount of freedom is being lost. In our quest for world freedom, let us not take men as we think they should be, but let us take them as they are. Let us not forget for one moment that without satisfying one of the greatest desires of humankind—food, freedom will never become a reality.

We can no longer afford the luxury of waste. We must conserve our soil, water, grasslands and forests if we are to preserve our democratic way of life. I believe that our attitude toward conservation in general and soil conservation in particular is going to determine the future of our nation.

The Honorable Ezra Taft Benson, Secretary of Agriculture, stated in his agriculture policy that, "The objective of agriculture is to provide high quality food and fiber at reasonable prices, improve the production of basic land resources and contribute to higher levels of human nutrition and of living."

I think you will agree that Mr. Benson's objective is very sound and basic. How much have we done to meet that objective? We have doubled and even tripled production and various statistics indicate that we are eating better than we ever did before.

We can paint a rosy picture of our progress in farming, but there are thorns that mar the rosy illusion. Charles E. Kellogg, former Chief of Soil Survey Division states that, "Although the productivity of the soils of the United States is still high, deterioration has been significant during the past one hundred years, and the future of our agriculture is unpleasant to contemplate while this tendency continues unchecked."

Similarly, H. H. Bennet, Chief of the Soil Conservation Service of the United States of Agriculture, estimates that more than 50,000,000 acres or nearly one-sixth of our cultivated land have been injured by soil depletion and erosion, and another 50,000,000 acres have been seriously damaged. More than 100,000,000 acres, or one-third of our cultivated lands are impaired by erosion and fertility extraction.

Scientists believe that it took five hundred years to form an inch of topsoil in Missouri. This figure is applicable to the rest of the United States. This means that in places where the topsoil is six or seven inches deep, it required at least 3,600 years of natural processing for the layers of topsoil to be laid down. However, with neglect or improper use, all the topsoil of a farm can be easily washed or blown away in a few years.

Obviously, we have a problem to which only society as a unit can possibly effect a solution, and which demands the attention and efforts of every American.

The days of the "Westward Movement" have ended. We have no greener pastures to move on to. Our only hope is to preserve what

we have through conservation. I will not go into the details of soil conservation except to mention that all of us should practice contour farming, crop rotation, strip cropping, terracing, and prevent overgrazing and excessive removal of forests. We should make these and other similar practices a part of our farm duties in minimizing soil erosion.

Our major problem is not lack of knowledge in conserving soil. Ours is a problem of indifference and lack of moral obligation. Let us think of soil conservation as being not only a national problem, but a world problem. We must learn to realize that the soil of another country is as important as our own soil in promoting world brotherhood.

Future Farmers, we are the ones that live closest to the soil. With our joint voices and actions let us do our part in increasing food production through soil conservation. Let us remember that with each pound of nutrient we save, and with each acre of land we conserve, we are helping to make world freedom a reality.

THE LAND IS OUR TRUST

By Lee Todd, Bells, Tennessee

When I tell my friends that I want to major in agriculture and to be a farmer, I am usually confronted with an immediate question. Why? I am aware that my parents have known rough sledding and that for generations before them it was much rougher. We don't observe a forty-hour week on our farm and, even though we are organizing and planning by ingenious methods to make it rain when we need it, we have yet to discover a way to make the sun shine when the hay needs to be dried. I remember, too, that when we raise a lot of cattle, corn, soybeans, pigs, or almost any other farm product, it seems that invariably the prices go down. We hear about good prices and steady market when we have nothing to sell. Improper public relations have placed farmers right along with some other groups in being the "most cussed" people in the country.

But, with all the problems which now face agriculture, I and more than 363,000 other vocational agriculture students who make up the membership of the Future Farmers of America still want to be farmers. We are devoting ourselves to much work, study, and extra curricula, such as this meeting here today, to achieve our goal of being good farmers.

Perhaps my foremost reason for wanting to be a farmer is my love for the land. I believe that farming is a most interesting work which, in spite of all its many problems, will afford lifetime rewards commensurate with any other business when compared on the same basis. New machinery, new farming methods, new techniques, and new ideas will all add to the growth of our nation. This enrichment will come only when the farmer learns to use knowledge and wisdom

in conjunction with his hands, because the hand of the farmer is the heart of America.

I recognize the land as a sacred trust which has been left to His people by the Creator of the universe. I recognize the soil as being the Lord's land and it is this phase of our responsibility as farmers which I have chosen to discuss with you today.

There can be no separation of man from the land. His whole existence is tied to the soil from the beginning of his days to the time his body is laid to rest in the arms of the earth. From the busiest street corner in the modern city to the wind-blown country fields, human livelihood is a product of the land. I dedicate myself to the principle that the conservation of soil and the conservation of souls are inseparable. What is good for the land is good for man.

The psalmist said, "The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof." Throughout the ages, man has disputed this stewardship of the land, claiming its uses for personal and often selfish benefits. Biblical regions from whence came the stories of the Flood, Noah and the Ark, Jonah, and The Garden of Eden are today as barren of vegetation as though shaved with a razor.

Shifting Nomads in the desert, dark skinned Hindus barely eking out an existence, Chinese peasants diking the Yellow River higher and higher, and our own Mississippi River which, when at flood stage, carries a forty-acre farm seven inches deep out into the ocean every minute, give proof to the psalm, "The earth is the Lord's."

Very few of us really know what soil is, to say nothing about its value. It is difficult to realize that this land, where we grow our crops, play golf, dig basements, and bury our dead, to mention only a few of its uses, took countless centuries to form and to develop. Soil was originally formed from rock, from raindrops pounding, wind blowing, expansion and contraction from freezing and thawing, water running over the surface and big sheets of ice crushing and grinding. All of these forces over thousands of years formed mineral soil from rock use.

Gradually, as mineral soil was formed, lower forms of plant life began to grow. As they died and decayed, higher types of plants established themselves and millions of bacteria worked endlessly to decompose and incorporate these plants into the soil. All of this is soil as we know it today. It is something very precious and alive. It is the basis for physical existence.

Food and clothing and much of our shelter needs are directly traceable to soil resources. We may change from cotton to woolen clothing, but both are products of the land. A shortage of iron ore mined in the soil may cause an increase in the use of plastics, which also come from the soil. Almost everything from "a dose of aspirin tablets to a railroad train" is derived from the land.

Here in America, fifty million acres of once fertile cropland have been ruined for any further practical cultivation. Much of this has been abandoned. Another fifty million acres are well on the road to abandonment, and on a second hundred million acres of our land we have permitted erosion to peel off from 25 to 75 percent of the top soil. In a normal year, erosion removes 21 times as much plant food as crops do. This 200 million acres is an area equal to the combined area of Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Missouri, Kentucky, and Maryland. This is only cropland damage. Millions of acres of range and pasture have also been depleted.

A change has occurred from what our forefathers witnessed when they observed a land rich in resources. Because we have failed to treat the land with the reverence it deserves, because we have not recognized that "The earth is the Lord's" and because sound land use principles and conservation measures have been neglected, the land has deteriorated and the people have suffered along with it.

The solution to complete conservation is to use each acre of land in accordance with its individual capabilities as endowed by nature and to treat each acre of land in accordance with its individual needs for conservation.

The conservation of soil and the conservation of souls are worthy and complimentary goals. Jesus said, "What is a man profited if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul?" I might ask, what has a tiller of the soil profited if he shall gather temporary financial gain and lose the topsoil of his farm?

The goodness of earth is God's goodness. God proved His good intentions toward man by giving him productive soil. We should remember that ours is a heritage of soil not of achievement. We should use wisely God's goodness, the Lord's land, which is our trust, for ourselves and for those who follow.

FARM ORGANIZATIONS: AN ANSWER TO OUR FARM PROBLEMS

By Clark Reber, Bunkerville, Nevada

"I believe in leadership from ourselves and respect from others. I believe in my own ability to work efficiently and to think clearly with such knowledge and skill as I can secure, and in the ability of organized farmers to serve their own and the public interest in marketing the product of our toil. I believe we can safeguard these rights against practices and policies that are unfair."

This is the third section of the Future Farmer creed written by the late E. M. Tiffany, a former teacher trainer in agricultural education at the University of Wisconsin. It was adopted as the official Creed of our organization at the third national FFA convention in 1930. Every boy who becomes a Greenhand, according to our national constitution, must memorize these words. I wonder if the average Greenhand fourteen years of age knows what he is

saying. Have the changes in agriculture and new developments made these humble ideas less important? No, I believe it is more important.

Why do I say this? What has happened since 1930? When our Creed was adopted, we were starting into one of the most serious depressions the world has ever known. Farm produce was practically impossible to sell. When it could be sold, wheat brought fifty cents a bushel or less, pigs fifty cents to two dollars depending on the size and weight, and the government paid four dollars a head for millions of calves to be destroyed. Now these same commodities are worth five to ten times as much.

We have come from rags to riches. We should be satisfied. You might say agriculture is sitting on top of the world. This might be true if it were not for a few other important changes. First, in 1930 approximately 25% of our population were farmers. Not only 12% are farmers but the Farm Bureau claims that only nine percent of our total population produce ninety percent of the food. This means there are fewer to vote for agricultural legislation and who are directly involved in agricultural production. New inventions in machinery, changes in technology and advanced methods have crowded the small farmer closer and closer to the brink of oblivion. The draft horse has almost become a memory of the old timer, the present day old bossy has become a well fed highly efficient factory for milk production: Since 1940 the number of milk cows has decreased but our total milk production has increased thirteen percent.

Our appetites have become more selective. More and more of us demand fruits, vegetables and dairy products as well as better grades of meat. The emphasis in our farming has changed from production and in a large measure is that of marketing. Science and invention have solved most of our production problems. Even the worst pessimists can no longer cry from the housetops that America will starve to death. Our problem is a consumption of our commodities at a rate great enough to keep agriculture solvent. Our foreign exports have dropped from four and one billion dollars a year to two billion dollars. Our government is swamped with stored surplus commodities.

The government has less need for large supplies of food for the military operations and much less need for clothing and fiber which agriculture produced. This is not a problem which is strictly political in nature. Neither can we blame the problem to either political party, nor should we as farmers expect a miracle of the government to completely solve all these problems.

In order to solve these problems, all of the farmers must be cognizant of them and work together for a solution. This solution must come through thinking, discussions, and close cooperation between the agricultural leaders and the farmers themselves.

How are we going to get these discussions and the thought to work out these problems? These can only come through the farm

organizations where the thinking of the farmer can be channeled through county organizations, through state conventions where delegates from counties meet together, talk over their problems and work out definite recommendations to be sent to the national conventions for discussions and deliberations. These can then be handed on to the proper agencies to work out general policies and administrations of this program to meet the needs of the American Farmer.

The more I study the Creed, I find the emphasis should be placed on the sentence, "and in the ability of organized farmers to serve our own and the public interest in marketing the product of our toil." The key words are organized farmers.

Organization means unity. Where there is unity there is strength, and strength brings power. Power poorly used is worse than no power at all. The organizations should be very careful in making their program of work to consider not only their own personal economic good but the good of the country as a whole.

The organization must keep in mind our democratic way of life, which provides for the election of legislators who make the law. These legislators frequently are controlled by lobbies who are selfish to the extent of getting laws established which are not for the good of all. It is unreasonable to assume that the general public can maintain through taxation exorbitant price supports and unreasonable subsidies.

Yes, the farm organization has a definite responsibility to not only the farming public but also to all the citizens of this great country of ours. It is axiomatic that if the farmer is going to enjoy a high standard of living all America must likewise enjoy the same abundance. Thank God we live in a country capable of providing for our every want.

We need strong farm organizations with large membership. One of the places this membership can be obtained is through FFA and 4-H which gives boys basic training in parliamentary procedure, skill in conducting the organization and working cooperatively together. United, intelligent, open discussion, with a program to help the farmer which is truly democratic is the hope of the future.

Youth organizations should be encouraged to participate in the farm organizations and study their program to enable them to more fully understand the importance of these organizations in our society. There should be close cooperation between the farm organization and the youth organization so that the youth will just naturally go into the adult organization as he matures.

If an organization is going to function efficiently there is a definite need for leaders, who are willing to sacrifice and work to carry on the program set by the organization. With leaders who are willing to work for the good of all and who are willing to present programs that are interesting and of value to their membership,

they can accomplish the purpose for which they have been established.

The organization also needs members who are well informed, interested and unselfish. Who can think of the problems in an unselfish manner and are willing to work for the good of all. Members who can think of the whole problem of distribution and marketing, and work to get greater consumption of farm products. Members who by their actions can follow the ideal of a truly free agriculture in a free society. Every member of the organization should be a personal salesman to get others to use farm commodities as much as possible.

We need young men who will study science and develop ways to use farm products in industry. Americans have been versatile and can adapt themselves to any situation. They are slow to move to action for change, but when they accept the change then they move with rapidity, and the change is effected with the greatest efficiency. The majority of the people want to do the right thing. They are willing to accept regulation and curtailment if they can be shown that is the way it should be done. Farming has become a science. Greater investment is required to produce and market quality products. Agriculture has come a long way since 1930. Today we need farmers who are well trained, whose realm of thinking is nationwide and possibly world wide in scope. We need farmers who are salesmen for agriculture and who are willing to participate in our legislatures and to explain these problems.

When we analyze the Creed in light of 1955, we find those early leaders of our FFA were sound in their thinking. If we could get the more than 100,000 Greenhands each year to learn and live the basic ideas of organization, cooperation and using their God-given ability to work efficiently and think clearly our farm problems can be solved.

A VALLEY WITH A VISION

By Clarence Van Dyke, Unionville, Pennsylvania

"Ten Thousand People Made Homeless by Flood" . . .

"Drought Damage Set at Ten Million Dollars" . . .

"New York City Faces Water Crisis" . . .

Every year newspapers carry similar accounts of the ravages of flood and drought. Down the Mississippi goes four and one-half million tons of topsoil a day—the equivalent of a six-inch layer of topsoil from forty-six, hundred-acre farms. Down the Mississippi in one day at flood time, goes soil that could produce enough food for ninety-two families—food not for this year alone, but for all the years of your life and the lives of your children.

This loss narrowed down to the Brandywine watershed, (Chester and Delaware Counties, Pennsylvania), amounts to 50,000

tons of fertile soil each year. This loss was evident to the alert farmer in the valley, for he could calculate his lower crop yields without having mastered calculus. He saw the gully-riddled slopes, the thin topsoil, the unthrifty appearance of the crops.

Stream pollution by industry and agriculture had made its mark in the valley. Marine life in the streams, such as trout and bass, was practically extinct. City officials at Wilmington, at the mouth of the Brandywine, became increasingly concerned about their water supply. They did not care to have their drinking water loaded with topsoil, flavored with untreated sewage, and seasoned with the oily waste from the Lukens Steel plant.

It was recognized early that the townspeople and the farmers had a common problem. For indeed, a course of action formulated for one group must have the whole-hearted support of all concerned before it can become even partially successful.

Where would you start in order to curtail this loss? A better question might be, "Where did the interested residents of the Brandywine Valley start?" They could have started with an impounding dam at Wilmington; they could have attempted to force the residents into conservation by legal methods requiring the farmer to keep his soil on the farm.

Fortunately they did neither. Instead, this handful of conservation-minded folk started where the rain drops first hit the soil. They approached their task with the conviction that the solution lay in education, rather than force. Sounds logical, doesn't it?

What good would a large reservoir of runoff and silt do for the farmer up stream? The answer is simple—it wouldn't do any good. For that matter, the urban residents, who drink the water from the stream realized, too, that an impounding dam was not the correct approach. That water could not help to relieve the farmers' problem of mid-summer drought. Instead, the water must be kept in the land where it would give results in times of little rainfall.

To state the problem takes little ingenuity, but in the solution comes the key to all humanity's survival: the best of soil and water conservation, and a conservation plan fitted to the topography of each field, each farm, and each watershed. The solution is not one that comes in a package, nor something you can do once and forget. It is something that must get into your mind as well as into your muscle.

Fully realizing the tremendous scope of their undertaking, the valley's conservation leaders, including scout leaders, bankers, teachers, wildlife enthusiasts, farmers and interested residents, banded together and formed an organization, known as the Brandywine Valley Association. The big job was to put the problem before the residents: to illustrate to the businessman, the farmer, the housewife, and the youth of the valley the need for protecting and improving our most valuable resources. Such soil and water con-

servation practices as terraces, contours, cover crops, and farm ponds are finding their places in the valley.

The record shows that 1,420 farmers in Chester County cooperate with the local Soil Conservation District. Nearly one out of every two farmers has taken the big step toward a complete conservation plan within the last seven years.

Through a well-planned supervised farming program, boys in the Future Farmer chapters of Chester County have made remarkable progress in taking the necessary steps to safeguard our water and fertile topsoil. The valley's conservation leaders realized early that a long-range plan for improvement must include working with the youth of the valley. A Conservation contest was initiated in 1947 and, since its inception, 5,000 acres have been contoured, 50,000 trees have been planted, 4,000 acres of pasture have been improved, and 25 farm ponds have been constructed. This includes only the farms on which the FFA boys lived and worked. Technical "know-how" was supplied not only from the agriculture teacher, but also through Soil Conservation specialists and Agriculture Extension personnel. To encourage farm youth to practice conservation, the bankers of Chester County have awarded \$500 in prizes annually.

Industry, too, must contribute substantially in keeping our streams running clear. The industries of the Brandywine watershed have spent \$2,000,000 to correct and guard against pollution.

One might assume that if the combined forces of industry and agriculture had worked in harmony toward a goal of worthwhile conservation practices, the job would be complete. This is far from being true; it takes more than that. Towns, communities, and individual families must enter into the picture. Evidence to the fact that the townspeople are doing their part is shown in the \$16,000,000 that was spent for sewage disposal plants.

The best testimony to the job being accomplished is the fact that more watershed conservation associations are being formed. The Upper Susquehanna Watershed Association conservation area in New York State, the Pequest, and the Stony-Brook Millstone watershed conservation groups in New Jersey are examples of townspeople and farmers banding together in order to maintain and improve their most valuable resources.

If we could but multiply this task by the thousands of valleys and drainage areas in our nation; we would then begin to visualize the tremendous opportunities and responsibility that belong to you and me.

A characteristic found in most Americans has come to the front—the characteristic of banding together in time of need. With plenty of promotion and education through the Brandywine Valley Association, such groups as the Scouts manage to work conservation into their annual activities. Township supervisors plan and develop conservation practices for the road banks, and establish sanitary

landfills for rubbish disposal. Sportsmen's clubs distribute game food and seed mixtures to school children to plant. The planting, in turn, provides the necessary food and cover for wildlife. 4-H clubs, Grange, women's clubs, wildlife groups and garden clubs sponsor many soil and water conservation activities. A conservation workshop is conducted by a local teachers college for the teachers of the area.

Here, then, is how a group of people, having caught a vision of the perfect valley, have worked quietly, unselfishly and unceasingly toward that goal. But the end is not yet. The question now is whether we have the vision and courage to finish the job, to accept our full responsibility for the kind of valley we turn over to those who come after us. For future generations will judge us, not alone on what we have done, but by whether we made the wisest use of what we had.

FARMING—A CHALLENGE AND AN OPPORTUNITY

By Jerry Litton, Chillicothe, Missouri

Farming is more than the production and marketing of farm crops and livestock. It is a mode of living, a school in which the leadership of our country is trained. Farming gives permanency and solidarity to the nation's civilization. Since the successful farmer is a student of nature and nature's laws, he develops a wholesome philosophy of life. The application of scientific developments has made farming a vocation which appeals to the man who thinks. For him it offers a challenge and opportunity to use his knowledge and ability to the fullest extent.

Just what is the farmer's job? It is not merely to produce crops and livestock but to maintain a satisfactory life on the farm. The farm family is the most important product on the farm. To have a desirable farm life, however, crops and livestock must be produced in the best possible way so that the means of securing a desirable living will be available. The best ways of producing crops and livestock should be determined and used. This means that the farmer must study his problems and secure the best help available in solving them. It is not enough to learn the best ways known at a given time and follow those forever after. As new and better methods are constantly being discovered, one must keep up to date if he is to be successful in so highly competitive a business as farming. It can be truthfully said that in farming man is the most important factor determining success on a farm.

The successful farmer studies and learns continuously, not only from books and bulletins but frequently from the experiences of others. After all, the most valuable information in books and bulletins is a record of past experiences of others. These experiences often enable us to know what to do and what not to do. Those that expect to farm must learn early to study the problems of farming.

For those who do not expect to farm the understanding of this important industry is exceptionally helpful in whatever line of work they may engage.

It has been said that the farmer produces crops and livestock. While this is true, in a sense he must enlist the help of nature if his efforts are to be successful. Just what does the farmer do? Stated in the most simple terms, he moves things. He moves the feed into the feedbox for the cattle and nature uses the feed to grow and fatten the cattle. He moves the plow and harrow over the ground and prepares a seed bed. He moves the seed into the drill and the drill over the land and nature produces a crop of wheat. So it is with all farming operations. It seems so simple that one might wonder why agriculture should be studied. It would be simple if it were not for the essential fact that the farmer must discriminate among the moves to be made. All moves are not equally effective or significant. How much feed should be moved into the feed box? How much and what kind of seed should be put into the drill? How many times he should move the cultivator over the land? When to move the wheat to market? Which move is best? The answers to these questions are not easy, but their careful study will bring rewards. Farming is like a game of checkers. What move is next? Just as the checker players study their many possible moves and make those that seem most promising, so farmers study their moves and select those that give most promise of inducing nature to respond most bountifully. To do this, the farmer must understand how crops and livestock are grown and what the experiences of others in growing them are. The good farmer is constantly searching for new and better moves to make. The questions of what to move, where to move, when to move, how to move and how much to move are constantly before every farmer. They present an ever present challenge to him. Out of these challenges come opportunities for us—the Future Farmers of America. New and better methods of moving things are being learned by experiences and experiments and these results are being applied to farming by farmers who study them.

The changing and improving character in agriculture has increased the opportunities in farming. In the early days there was comparatively little opportunity for large differences in farm incomes. Today wide differences in incomes for farmers are to be found in practically every farming community. Some farmers find it possible to make a profit in the most unfavorable years, while other farmers lose money in the best of years. This increasing difference in incomes of farmers is caused, for the most part, by the extent to which new improvements are used on the farm. The farmer with the low income usually spends little time studying these improvements, while the farmer with the good income studies these improvements and uses them on his farm. This situation gives the progressive up-to-date farmer a better opportunity to have a larger income than ever before. The farmer who studies his business and learns

how to farm in the best possible manner and then puts this knowledge into practice finds that doing these things makes it easier to secure credit and to do a better job of living on the farm. Man has been the greatest disturber of nature. All plants and animals which were in his way he slew, cut down, burned, dug up, and destroyed. Those which he could use in getting a living or which added to his pleasure and comfort he saved.

But this struggle between the useless and useful soon broadened into a contest between the inferior and superior—the better and the best. In the long run those plants and animals which could not readily be changed to meet man's increasing needs were discarded and those which were most readily improved were kept. That contest is going on to this day and will continue as long as there is progress in America. Almost all of the good land of the United States grows cultivated crops and most of the pastures are grazed by improved animals. Agriculture is never completed, it never stands still. What was good practice yesterday may be out of date tomorrow. Only as agriculture advances does the human race advance also. Future Farmers of America tend to make their own opportunities and opportunities were never more numerous. Good farming on good land pays good returns and offers a challenge and an opportunity for a satisfying way of life.

In twenty years from now we the Future Farmers of 1955 will have to feed an increased population of over two hundred million people in America. We will be forced to do this with less basic material because of erosion, bad soil conservation practices, and abuse of the soil. We can pick up a handful of soil of some other country and a handful of American soil. Maybe they are the same in composition and fertility but in one hand we will hold starvation, weakness and poverty, while in the other hand we will hold production, strength and wealth because we in America have taken full advantage of what nature has given us. Many farmers of other countries fail not only to produce food and clothing for their own people but they fail to produce the bare necessities of life for their own families. Here in America we are not faced with starvation but instead surplus and over-production and for the people in the field of agriculture this is something of which to be proud.

The blessing of contentment in life is the end to which all effort is directed and herein lies one of the best arguments in favor of farming. With the necessity of providing for everyday existence comes an opportunity for accumulating a profit in which to indulge the desire to own a piece of land, to plant what one chooses, and to watch it grow and produce the product of one's toil.

Yes, these are the challenges—study and learning—choice and decision—research and growth. If these challenges and opportunities of farm life can be seen rightly and accepted courageously how much greater will be the blessings of contentment for him who chooses farming as his greatest ambition.

FFA

Motto

*"Learning to Do,
Doing to Learn;
Earning to Live,
Living to Serve."*